Wins for all of Labor’s statewide candidates

Labor helps elect one of its own, Tim Walz, to lead state as Governor

SAINT PAUL — The stakes in the 2018 election couldn’t have been higher. And, in the end, labor’s endorsed statewide candidates swept the board.

In races for U.S. Senate, Amy Klobuchar cruised to re-election with a margin exceeding 625,000 votes while Tina Smith won her special election by nearly 275,000 votes.

Tim Walz won the race for Governor with a lead of more than 295,000 votes.

In other statewide races, Keith Ellison won election as Attorney General, Steve Simon won re-election as Minnesota Secretary of State, and former Minnesota AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer Julie Blaha — a middle school math teacher — won election as State Auditor.

Voters elect labor-friendly majority to MN House

By Steve Share
Labor Review editor

SAINT PAUL — For the past year, electing a friend in the Minnesota governor’s office was the primary focus for the Labor 2018 political effort. Assuming the odds favored Republicans would keep control of both Minnesota House and Senate, winning the race for Governor was seen as key to preventing Minnesota from joining neighboring states who have assailed workers’ freedom to join together in unions.

As vote totals came in on election night, however, one win after another in key swing districts came in for the labor-endorsed and DFL-endorsed candidates for Minnesota House of Representatives — a net gain of 18 seats — resulting in an eight vote labor-friendly majority in the Minnesota House.

With labor-endorsed Tim Walz elected Governor, and Republicans now holding only a one-vote majority in the Minnesota Senate, the 2019 legislative session could see real progress.

“Now we can stop playing defense and we can start playing offense and get some real things done for working families in our state,” commented David Gilbert-Pederson, organizer for the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, speaking to a gathering of MRLF field staff and volunteers two days after the election.

Make no mistake. This win didn’t happen all by itself. “Everybody worked really hard,” commented Terry Nelson, business manager for Painters...
Behind 2018 wins — lots of conversations

By Chelsie Glaubitz G abiou, President, Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation

Election night, Tuesday, November 6: as race after race was called in favor of our labor-endorsed candidates—up and down the ballot — I wasn’t thinking about the candidates. All I kept seeing was face after face of workers flashing before me — workers talking to their co-workers, workers discussing with their families, and workers reaching out to their neighbors about the challenges and opportunities we have in our communities.

The votes and numbers that resulted in historic wins across our state truly are climactic. But the election that resulted in historic wins across our region is just getting started. We have contracts to bargain, roads to build, budgets to pass and policy campaigns to conquer.

But, just like the election, none of those things will be possible without fully engaging our union members and our allies to be active participants in their unions and in our democracy.

The election was a trial run for the work we must now continue. Here at the MRLF, we are committed to leading campaigns that truly build our strength inside and out, not just in a single electoral campaign or policy arena. That means, just like this past election, we need all of you!

Before we embark on this next chapter, I want to make sure to thank everyone who made our 2018 election wins possible.

Without the union leaders with a vision of what’s possible, we could have just walked away from the election in the aftermath of the Janus Supreme Court decision.

Without the staff of the unions who kept the election machine running 24 hours a day, we couldn’t have talked to as many members as we did in as many places as we did.

Without the volunteers and canvassers who put themselves out there talking to rank and file union members, we would not have moved a single voter to action.

All of you were an important part of this fight. The thanks from myself and the leaders with a vision of what’s possible, we could have just walked away from the election in the aftermath of the Janus Supreme Court decision.

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Events

November 19: East Side Freedom Library to host discussion exploring ‘Labor and #MeToo’

SAINT PAUL — This past year, the emergence of the anti-sexual harassment “#MeToo” movement has rocked the country, from the media to corporate boardrooms, to the political arena and to the workplace.

A discussion on “Labor and #MeToo” will take place Monday, November 19 at 7:00 p.m. at the East Side Freedom Library, 1105 Greenbrier St. in St. Paul.

The University of Minnesota Labor Education Service is co-sponsoring the event, which will consider: What roles have unions played in making workplaces safe zones for all workers? What more could unions do? How have unions themselves been sites of sexual harassment? How can the labor movement build a cooperative relationship with movements for gender justice and equity?

The discussion will be led by Christa Mello, president of UNITE HERE Local 17, and Bobbie Miller Thomas, board member of AFSCME Local 34.

Visit eastsidefreedomlibrary.org for more information.

November 21: Rally with MSP airport workers!

SAINT PAUL — SEIU Local 26 and UNITE HERE Local 17, working together as the Minnesota Airport Workers Council, plan a rally Wednesday, November 21 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. at Terminal 1 at the Minneapolis-St. Paul airport.

The Minnesota Airport Workers Council welcomes supporters to come to the November 21 rally to help win $15 and a union for all MSP workers.

Airlines and their contractors are making record profits while many workers at MSP airport still make a minimum wage of $10.65, the Airport Workers Council noted in announcing the rally.

The City of Minneapolis has passed a $15 minimum wage ordinance and the City of St. Paul is considering a similar measure.

The Minnesota AFL-CIO also is hosting the November 21 rally.

November 21: Minnesota Wild to host first ‘Building Trades Night’ for game with Ottawa

SAINT PAUL — The Minnesota Wild hockey team will play the Ottawa Senators Wednesday, November 21 at 7:00 p.m. at Xcel Energy Center for the Wild’s first-time “Building Trades Night.”

Individual ticket prices range from $64 to $124.

Ticket-buyers will be invited to participate in a pre-game on-ice photo and also will be entered to win an autographed Minnesota Wild branded hard-hat.

Additional promotional offers will be available for groups of 8 or more.

To buy individual tickets, visit wild.com/buildingtrades.

For questions or for groups of 8 or more, contact Matt Sayre at 651-312-3479 or msayre@wild.com or Corey Johnson at 651-312-3470 or cjohnson@wild.com.

November 25: AFSCME member reprises Fringe Festival show about activist Jeannette Rankin

MINNEAPOLIS — The remarkable life of social justice activist Jeannette Rankin (1880-1973) comes to life in a one-woman play, “Jeannette Rankin: Champion of Persistence,” created and performed by Hennepin County librarian and AFSCME Local 2822 member J. Emily Peabody.

Peabody performed a one-hour version of the play as part of the 2018 Minnesota Fringe Festival but will present a somewhat longer performance with expanded content Sunday, November 25 at 3:00 p.m. at the historic Gale Mansion, 2115 Stevens Ave. So. in Minneapolis.

Admission is $20 and will benefit the American Association of University Women. A question and answer session will follow the performance. Light refreshments will be served.

Jeannette Rankin was a leader in the women’s suffrage movement, championed peace, social justice and labor causes, and in 1916 was the first woman elected to Congress. She was elected to the U.S. House from Montana in 1916 and again in 1940. Her activism continued into the 1970s.

Peabody spent 10 months researching and writing the play. She has worked 31 years for the Hennepin County Library system.
Labor media awards: Labor Review wins special awards for stories about collective bargaining, organizing, political action

continued from page 2


Five third place awards

The five third place awards for the Labor Review include:

□ Third place for general excellence for a print publication produced by regional or state labor federations (for the November 17, 2017 and December 22, 2017 issues).


□ A third place visual communications award for best front page or cover for page one of the November 17, 2017 issue.

Two honorable mentions

The two honorable mentions for the Labor Review include:


□ Honorable mention for best photo essay or gallery, “AFSCME members protest Hennepin County Medical Center layoffs,” by Steve Share (published March 24, 2017).

Four ILCA awards for AFSCME Council 5

Minnesota’s AFSCME Council 5 won four awards in the ILCA labor media contest for work produced in 2017, competing against local, regional and state unions as well as regional federations and state federations.

AFSCME Council 5’s awards include:

□ A first place writing award for best series for “Keeping kids safe,” Lynette Kalsnes, editor.

□ A first place writing award for best analysis for “Experts say Minnesota should be wary of taking over CCA prison,” Lynette Kalsnes, editor.


□ Honorable mention for best photography for “We Do Minnesota’s Work,” by Lynette Kalsnes.

For more information about the International Labor Communications Association and its work to support labor communications, visit ilcounline.org.

The ILCA website also features the complete list of this year’s award-winners.

More Events

November 26: ‘Lessons From Labor History’ will be topic at East Side Freedom Library

SAINT PAUL — The East Side Freedom Library will present union activist Dustin Loosbrock for a presentation, “Lessons from Labor History: What Can We Learn From the Past to Make a Better Future?”

The event will be Monday, November 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the East Side Freedom Library, 1105 Greenbrier St. in St. Paul.

Loosbrock has been a heavy equipment operator and a business agent for Operating Engineers Local 49.

He recently explored labor history as part of a residency at the Harvard University.

December 7: ‘Fare for All’ offers discounted holiday food package for $30 including a ham

MINNEAPOLIS — For only $30, you can purchase a discounted holiday food package in December from Fare for All for your seasonal celebrations. The package includes:

□ a 9-11 pound spiral cut ham, a whole chicken, Italian sausages, meatballs, chicken drumsticks, frozen corn, mixed vegetables and a Dutch apple pie.

Fare For All has 30 locations in the greater Twin Cities metro area where food packages are sold once a month.

Friday, December 7 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. will be the next Fare for All distribution date at the Laborers Local 563 hall, 901 14th Ave. NE, Minneapolis (one-half block west of Central Ave. on 14th Ave. NE).

Fare for All’s regular food packages also will be available. The program has no income requirements and is open to everyone looking to save money.

Working Partnerships, the AFL-CIO community services program, hosts the Fare for All site at Laborers Local 563.

For more information, call 612-379-8130 ext. 112 or visit fareforall.org.

December 8: Labor and social justice artist Ricardo Levins Morales offers holiday art sale

MINNEAPOLIS — You might be all energized by the hopeful results of the 2018 election — and you can get further inspiration for the struggles ahead from artwork by local artist Ricardo Levins Morales.

Labor and social justice artist Ricardo Levins Morales will host his annual holiday art sale Saturday, December 8 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at his new location at RLM Art Studio, 3260 Minnehaha Ave. So., Minneapolis.

Minneapolis-based Levins Morales has worked for decades creating art for the labor movement and for social justice causes.

Levins Morales has won numerous awards and an exhibit of his work was featured at the AFL-CIO headquarters in Washington.

The studio sale December 8 will feature 20 percent off union-made merchandise, including social justice posters and more.

Levins Morales’ annual “Liberation Calendar” for 2019 also will be available.

The RLM Art Studio is a union shop with members of The Newspaper Guild/ CWA Local 370. For more information, visit www.rlmartstudio.com.

December 8: TakeAction Minnesota plans annual progressives’ post-election ‘People’s Celebration’

SAINT PAUL — Expect winning candidates from the state’s 2018 elections to be among the speakers at TakeAction Minnesota’s annual post-election “People’s Celebration,” coming Saturday, December 8 from 5:30-10:30 p.m. at St. Paul RiverCentre, 175 West Kellogg Blvd.

Reduced-price “early-bird” tickets are available through November 16 at $65 for a regular ticket or $15 for a discounted ticket. After November 16, the regular ticket price will be $75 and the discounted ticket price will be $25. The deadline to reserve tickets is November 29.

The evening will include dinner, speakers, and dancing to a live band.

For more details, or to order tickets online, visit takeactionminnesota.org.
MINNEAPOLIS — In the successful campaign to win a labor-friendly majority in the Minnesota House of Representatives, the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation identified ten suburban House races as the top priorities for its union member outreach work. Come election night, the MRLF helped to win nine of those ten House races, plus two out of three House races in a second tier of targets.

Here’s a brief look at the results.

**House District 36A: Zack Stephenson**
With no incumbent in the race for House District 36A in Champlin and Coon Rapids, DFL and labor-endorsed Zack Stephenson earned 52 percent of the vote and defeated Republican Bill Maresh.

**House District 37A: Erin Koegel**
Two years ago in the race for House District 37B in Blaine, Republican Nolan West defeated DFL and labor-endorsed Su-san Witt by 168 votes. Amir Malik ran with DFL and labor endorsement this year, seeking to unseat West. Malik told the Labor Review — “168 votes — everybody can make a difference.” The race was even closer this year. West edged out Malik by 153 votes, according to unofficial results posted November 6.

**House District 44A: Ginny Klevorn**
The race this year in House District 44A in Plymouth was a rematch from 2016, with DFL and labor-endorsed Ginny Klevorn challenging Republican incumbent Sarah Anderson. This year, Klevorn won, earning nearly 54 percent of the vote and beating Anderson by 1,876 votes. “Ginny Klevorn felled a giant,” House DFL leader Representative Melissa Hortman commented on election night.

**House District 44B: Patty Acomb**
With the DFL incumbent not seeking re-election in House District 44B, Minnetonka City Council member Patty Acomb ran for the seat with DFL and labor endorsement. She earned nearly 63 percent of the vote and defeated Republican Gary Porter.

**House District 48B: Carlie Kotyza-Witthuhn**
The race for House District 48B, which lies primarily in Eden Prairie, was one of the closest House races of the year. Political newcomer Carlie Kotyza-Witthuhn ran with DFL and labor endorsement against five-term Republican incumbent Jennifer Loon. Kotyza-Witthuhn won 10,397 to 10,156 — a margin of only 241 votes.

**House District 49A: Heather Edelson**
House District 49A in Edina in recent years has flipped back and forth between the DFL and the Republicans. First-time candidate Heather Edelson, running with DFL and labor endorsement, took on first term Republican incumbent Dario Anselmo. Edelson ran a vigorous campaign. She told the Labor Review her campaign reached 51,000 doors, made 15,000 phone calls, and staffed 2,400 volunteer shifts. Edelson won with just over 58 percent of the vote.

**House District 49B: Steve Elkins**
House District 49B in Bloomington, Edina and Minnetonka was an open seat, with the DFL incumbent Paul Rosenthal retiring. Former Bloomington City Council member Steve Elkins ran for the seat with DFL and labor endorsement. He won nearly 62 percent of the vote and defeated Republican Matt Sikich.

At the DFL GOTV center in Plymouth, volunteers calling voters included retired MAPE union member Jeanne Iverson, Golden Valley (left), who took a break for a photo with Ginny Klevorn (right), DFL and labor-endorsed candidate for House District 44A. “I believe Ginny will support the things I believe,” Iverson said. “Her voice will be a strong one.” Klevorn won her race.

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**Holiday Shopping Guide**

**About those red and black flannel shirts...**

WYOMING, MN — In the 2018 campaign, labor-endorsed candidate for Minnesota governor Tim Walz became known for his trademark red and black flannel shirt. By campaign’s end, many other candidates and volunteers followed his fashion lead. Then came a fun sight at the November 6 victory celebration: a stage full of Walz staff and volunteers, all wearing red and black flannel shirts.

The Walz campaign ordered the shirts from Union House in Wyoming, Minnesota. “We got them in and got them sewed up with their ‘One Minnesota’ design and they were very happy with them,” said Max Anderson, owner of Union House.

Anyone can order the shirts for $48.99 from Union House — without the Walz logo. Although not union-made, the shirts are made in the United States and sold under the Brawney label. To order online, visit unionlabel.com.
Get-Out-The-Vote

Minneapolis, Monday, November 5, 8:29 p.m. The Communications Workers of America Local 7200 union hall hosted the DFL Party’s “Midnight Madness” election eve rally and lit drop. The event featured DFL and labor-endorsed candidates including Tina Smith, Tim Walz, Keith Ellison, Steve Simon and Julie Blaha. Blaha (left), who won her race for State Auditor, is a math teacher and former president of Anoka-Hennepin Education Minnesota.

Minneapolis, Tuesday, November 6, 9:43 a.m. DFL volunteer Kay Lewis signs in volunteers at the DFL GOTV action center in southwest Minneapolis. Lewis, Eden Prairie, is a former member of CWA who worked at AT&T several years ago. “My mom gets the Labor Review,” she added, noting her mom is a member of SEIU who has worked in food service for the Eden Prairie Schools since 1994. “The ‘L’ in DFL is for Labor,” Lewis said.

Edina, Tuesday, November 6, 2:29 p.m. SEIU Healthcare member LaDonna Meinecke, Minneapolis (left), was one of many volunteers working the phones at the Edina GOTV center for labor-endorsed and DFL-endorsed candidates including Heather Edelson, Minnesota House candidate in District 49A (right). “The energy is overwhelming,” Meinecke said. “People are really wanting change...”

Brooklyn Park, Tuesday, November 6, 5:37 p.m. UFCW Local 663 member Alex Kanao, Minneapolis, has been on leave from his job for five weeks and spent the time working with the Labor 2018 campaign, primarily door-knocking fellow UFCW members. Normally, he’s the deli manager and Local 663 steward at the Blaine West Cub Foods. For election day, “I got here early this morning and I’ve been making calls all day,” he said.

Shakopee, Tuesday, November 6, 3:33 p.m. U of M student Kaitlyn Peterson, Minneapolis, had just returned from knocking doors for Brad Tabke, labor-endorsed and DFL-endorsed candidate for MN House District 55A. “People generally have been pretty hopeful,” said Peterson, who grew up in a union family in New York.

Coon Rapids, Tuesday, November 6, 6:48 p.m. The polls will close in little more than one hour but the DFL’s GOTV center in Coon Rapids is still buzzing. Since September, Beverly Tinney, New Brighton, member of SEIU Local 284 (right), has been on leave from her job as a para-educator at Moundsview schools to work with the Labor 2018 campaign. “We all need to be doing everything we can, volunteering, to turn things in the right direction,” she said. Her daughter, Meredith Tinney (left), joined her for election day.

Plymouth, Tuesday, November 6, 4:30 p.m. Education Minnesota retiree Jackie Holmbeck, Plymouth, is working the phones. She taught 31 years in the Osseo schools. “I’ve been involved in labor campaigns since my early 20s,” she said. “The way I was raised was being honest, being hard-working, being compassionate,” she said.
SAINT PAUL — As election results came in Tuesday night, November 6, the news just got better and better for labor-endorsed candidates at the DFL Party’s celebration at the Intercontinental Hotel in downtown St. Paul. At 9:11 p.m., U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar, the first winner projected, also announced: “It looks like the U.S. House of Representatives will soon be the people’s House of Representatives” after the TV networks projected Democrats taking control of the U.S. House. At 10:21 p.m., DFL Party chair Ken Martin introduced U.S. Senator Tina Smith, whose win also was projected. “We had a strong victory,” Smith declared. Soon after, at 10:38 p.m. Martin was back at the podium to announce: “Are you ready to make history DFLers? We have never elected a DFLer to a third term as Governor… Tonight we will send a teacher to the Governor’s office!” At 10:45 p.m., Lieutenant Governor-elect Peggy Flanagan introduced Tim Walz, Governor-elect. Walz began, “Hello, ‘One Minnesota!’” — echoing his campaign’s main theme. DFL and labor-endorsed candidates would go on to win all of the statewide races, including Keith Ellison for Attorney General, Steve Simon for re-election as Secretary of State, and Julie Blaha, teacher and former secretary-treasurer of the Minnesota AFL-CIO, who was elected State Auditor.

DFL election night gathering, Tuesday, November 6, 10:49 p.m. The candidates leading the top of the DFL and labor-endorsed ticket celebrate victory. Left to right: U.S. Senator Tina Smith, U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar, Governor-elect Tim Walz, Lieutenant Governor-elect Peggy Flanagan. “One Minnesota means working together across lines of difference to ensure everyone has opportunity in this state,” Flanagan told the crowd. “We begin that work tomorrow.”

DFL election night gathering, Tuesday, November 6, 11:43 p.m. Fifth District Congressman Keith Ellison took the stage, with his victory projected in the race for Minnesota Attorney General. “I stand before you as a man with many, many people to thank,” he said. “We wouldn’t have won this race without the men and women of organized labor.”

DFL election night gathering, Tuesday, November 6, 10:45 p.m. Governor-elect Tim Walz: “We know what builds the middle class. This great city and this great state and this great nation was built by organized labor!” Walz pledged to advance good jobs, to provide access to quality, affordable health care, and to invest in education.

DFL election night gathering, Wednesday, November 7, 1:05 a.m. State Representative Melissa Hortman announces that the DFL has picked up 18 seats in the Minnesota House, creating a labor-friendly majority.
Voters approve most Minneapolis area school levy questions

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

MINNEAPOLIS — With only a few exceptions, voters in the Minneapolis area approved most school levy questions on the November 6 ballot. Here’s a brief look at the results of levy requests for the Minneapolis, Centennial, and Robbinsdale school districts.

Minneapolis: Both ballot questions pass

City of Minneapolis voters passed both of the two school levy questions on the November 6 ballot by wide margins. The first question, which passed with nearly 78 percent of the vote, would increase the operating referendum.

The second question, which would create a new technology levy, passed with nearly 72 percent of the vote.

With both questions passing, “the estimated median Minneapolis home value of $249,000 would see an increase of about $11 monthly,” according to the Yes for Mpls. Kids Campaign.

“We have to go to the voters so we can take care of our students’ academic, social, and emotional well-being in the way they deserve,” commented Michelle Wiese, president of Minneapolis Federation of Teachers.

Centennial: Both ballot questions approved

The Centennial School District — serving Blaine, Centerville, Circle Pines, Lexington and Lino Lakes — had two questions on the November 6 and both questions passed.

Question one, an operating levy, would cost $27.74 per month for a $225,000 home. Question one passed with 59.47 percent of the vote.

Question two, a bonding levy, would cost $5.43 per month on a $225,000 home. Question two passed with 57.24 percent of the vote.

Question one needed to pass in order for question two to pass.

Question two will provide funding to connect the east and west buildings at Centennial High School. Right now, students need to walk outside between classes to go from building to building and need to cross an open street. “The safety issue for the kids is huge,” noted Bruce Woznak, president of the Centennial Education Association.

Robbinsdale: Ballot question passes

The Robbinsdale School District had one ballot question on the November 6 ballot, an operating levy. The levy passed with 61.52 percent of the vote.

“If voters approve the operating levy request, the estimated tax impact on the average homeowner ($223,000 value home) would be less than $12.50 per month,” according to the school district.

“We believe it’s an absolute necessity,” said Peter Eckhoff, president of the Robbinsdale Federation of Teachers. “Over the past two years alone, we’ve had $17 million in cuts,” he said. If the levy had failed, an estimated $10 million more in cuts would have been needed over the next three years.

Local elections brought wins for MRLF’s candidates, but also some tough losses

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

MINNEAPOLIS — In 2018 races for local elected offices, 28 of the 36 candidates endorsed by the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation won their contests.

The MRLF’s endorsement is the AFL-CIO endorsement in local races.

Hennepin County Attorney: Freeman re-elected

In one of the highest profile races, MRLF-endorsed Mike Freeman won re-election as Hennepin County Attorney. He earned 53.98 percent of the vote, defeating challenger Mark Haase. Haase had won the DFL Party’s endorsement this year.

Hennepin County Commissioner: McLaughlin defeated

In another high profile race, however, longtime labor ally Peter McLaughlin lost his re-election bid to serve a ninth term as Hennepin County Commissioner, representing District 4.

Challenger Angela Conley defeated McLaughlin by a vote of 56.85 percent to 42.56 percent.

Over the years, McLaughlin has been the key leader in the development of the Twin Cities region's light rail system, which has created construction jobs and spurred additional economic development.

In the race for the open seat to represent Hennepin County District 2, MRLF-endorsed Irene Fernando defeated former Minneapolis City Council member Blong Yang by a vote of 57.46 percent to 41.92 percent.

Minneapolis School Board: Caprini and Pauly elected

In the four-way contest for Minneapolis School Board at large, both of the MRLF’s endorsed candidates — Kim Caprini and Josh Pauly — won election.

Other races

In the races for Osseo school board, at large however, only two of the four candidates endorsed by the MRLF won election.

Kelsey Dawson-Walton won election to a four-year term, while Sizi Goyah and Cindy Shevlin Woodcock did not make it into the top three in order to be elected.

Jackie Mosqueda-Jones, running in a special election for a two-year term, won her race, defeating an incumbent.

In the race for mayor of Richfield, MRLF-endorsed Maria Regan Gonzalez — currently a city council member — ran unopposed for mayor and was elected.

Longtime Richfield teacher Mary Supple, MRLF-endorsed, won her race for Richfield City Council at large.
AFSCME Council 5: With another death and continuing assaults, AFSCME demands state hire more correctional officers

AFSCME Council 5 correctional officers demanded October 18 that Minnesota lawmakers provide funding to hire 327 corrections officers and 75 to 100 other employees to keep workers, institutions and communities safe.

Two correctional officers already have died in Minnesota’s prisons this year and dozens more have been assaulted by inmates. Corrections officer Joseph Gomm was killed by an inmate at the Stillwater Correctional Facility in July, and corrections officer Joseph Parise died in late September shortly after helping to stop an inmate attack on a corrections officer at Oak Park Heights Correctional Facility.

AFSCME members repeatedly have asked legislators to fund adequate staffing. Union local leaders from each prison have worked hard to assess how much additional staffing each facility needs to ensure safety and security.

“We and the Department of Corrections both recognize we need adequate staffing for security and programming to guarantee a safer and more positive work environment,” said AFSCME Local 915 president Jeff Vars, a corrections officer at Oak Park Heights Correctional Facility.

MFT Local 59: Educational Support Professionals approve contract settlement, win $15 minimum wage

Members of the Educational Support Professionals chapter of Minneapolis Federation of Teachers Local 59 recently voted to approve a two-year agreement with the Minneapolis Public Schools.

In a vote concluding November 2, members voted 58 percent “yes” and 42 percent “no.”

“It was a significant ‘no’ vote,” noted Shaun Laden, president of MFT Local 59’s ESP chapter. Despite important gains for some workers — including a new $15 minimum wage — “it’s a tough contract,” Laden said, with only a one percent pay increase in the second year.

In addition, the agreement includes no new money for health care. “Health care expenses are going up,” Laden said.

Still, the new $15 minimum wage is an important gain. “For some of our people, it’s going from $13.19 per hour to $15 per hour,” Laden said. “It’s a huge percentage.”

The contract settlement was late in coming; the agreement will cover July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019. Members will receive retroactive pay increases going back to July 1, 2017.

And, come January 2019, the ESPs will be back at the bargaining table.

A continuing goal for the next round of negotiations: to win pay equity for the ESPs who work in special ed, whose pay currently lags $2 per hour behind ESPs working in regular classrooms. “It’s a huge equity issue,” Laden said. “We really are going to push the district on that issue.”

The contract settlement followed a huge turnout by ESPs at the October 9 Minneapolis School Board meeting, as well as planned “sick-outs” at six school sites.

As the Labor Review went to press November 9, the Minneapolis School Board was scheduled to vote on the agreement November 13.

The agreement covers about 1,600 workers.

Operating Engineers Local 49: Union praises Minnesota DNR’s approval of Polymet mine proposal

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources announced November 1 that it had issued permits to allow Polymet’s proposed NorthMet copper-nickel mine to proceed.

LOCAL UNION NEWS page 10

Retiree Meetings

If your union local’s retirees group wishes to list your meeting notices here, please contact the Labor Review at 612-379-4725 or e-mail laborreview@minneapolisunions.org.

Minneapolis Regional Retiree Council: Next meeting January 17

The next meeting of the Minneapolis Regional Retiree Council, AFL-CIO will be Thursday, January 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the United Labor Centre, 312 Central Ave, SE, Minneapolis, Room 215. A free lunch will be served after the meeting.

For more information about the Council, contact Graeme Allen, community and political organizer for the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, at 612-321-5672 or e-mail graeme@minneapolisunions.org.

ATU Local 1005 Retirees: Meet North, South, and St. Paul

Here is the schedule for the Almagamated Transit Union Local 1005 retiree meetings:

Minneapolis North: Second Tuesday of each month, 8:30 a.m., Coon Rapids VFW, 1919 Coon Rapids Blvd. (one block south of Hanson Blvd.)

Minneapolis South: First Wednesday of each month, 8:00 a.m., VFW Post 5555, 6715 Lake Shore Drive, Richfield.

St. Paul: Second Wednesday of each month, 12 noon, Mattie’s, 365 N. Concord St., South St. Paul.

CWA Local 7200 Retirees: Brief meeting, holiday luncheon December 11

The Retired Members Club of Communications Workers of America Local 7200 will meet Tuesday, December 11 for a very brief meeting at 12 noon followed by a holiday luncheon. The meeting will take place at the CWA Local 7200 hall, 3521 E. Lake St., Minneapolis.

The luncheon will include a beverage and special dessert. Please bring a check made out to VEAIP for $5.00 (or more if you wish) or $5.00 cash. We will have an interactive, fun gift exchange. Please bring a lightly used or new gift, wrapped, of $10.00 value. RSVP to Kathy Whaley at 763-560-5236 by December 3. Leave your name and number attending. We hope you can come and celebrate! For more information, call the CWA Local 7200 hall at 612-722-7200.

IBEW Local 292 Retirees: ‘Senior Sparkies’ meet December 11

The IBEW Local 292 Retirees — “Senior Sparkies”— will be meeting Tuesday, December 11 at the United Labor Centre, 312 Central Ave., Minneapolis, in the Guy Alexander Conference Room (second floor). Refreshments will be at 12:00 noon. The meeting begins at 12:30 p.m. We will be having a guest speaker.

Coming events:
- Children’s Christmas Party, Saturday, December 1.
- Members-Only Christmas Party, Friday, December 7.
- Retirees Holiday Luncheon, Wednesday, December 12.

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

Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Chapter 59: Next meeting February 6

Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Chapter 59 is an active group that takes a special interest in issues related to public education and educators. We meet with community and political leaders to explore and become more informed about the educational issues that are important to retirees. Together, we work to define and forge the RTC 59 agenda and priorities to inform and engage our audience.

The meeting will take place at the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers, 67 Eighth Ave. NE, Minneapolis. Other coming meeting dates for next year, all Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. include: March 26. April 23, May 28.

Pipefitters Local 539 Retirees: ‘Fazed Out Fitters’ meet third Wednesday of each month

Pipefitters Local 539 retirees — the “Fazed Out Fitters” — will 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.). Note: Beginning in May, the meeting time has moved to 12 noon. For more information, contact the Local 15 office at 612-333-8601.

Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 Retirees: ‘Rusty Tinner’s’ 33rd Annual Christmas Party December 11

The 33rd Annual Christmas Party for the Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 “Rusty Tinner’s” retirees club will be Tuesday, December 11 at 12 noon at the Maplewood union hall, 1681 E. Cope Ave.

Come have a delicious turkey dinner, win prizes, and visit with former co-workers and friends. Notices have been sent out to all members. If you didn’t receive this mailing contact Paul Lesch. Reservations and checks must be sent in by Friday, November 30. Make checks payable to Sheet Metal Local #10 Retirees Club and mail to Paul Lesch, 9930 204th St., Court N., Forest Lake, MN 55025. Questions? Call Paul at 651-435-3748.

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

Retirees from the University of Minnesota Maintenance Department meet the last Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. for breakfast at Elsie’s, 729 Marshall St. NE, Minneapolis.

House targets

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House District 55A: Brad Tabke

House District 55A includes Shakopee and nearby townships. Former Shakopee mayor Brad Tabke ran with DFL and labor endorsement, defeating Republican Erik Mortensen by 604 votes. Mortensen had defeated the Republican incumbent, Bob Loonan, in the primary.

House District 56A: Hunter Cantrell

In House District 56A in Savage and Burnsville, 23-year-old SEIU Healthcare Minnesota union member Hunter Cantrell ran with DFL and labor endorsement and defeated two-term Republican incumbent Drew Christiansen. Cantrell won with nearly 53 percent of the vote.

Tier two races

In the MRLF’s second tier of targeted races:
- DFL and labor-endorsed Kristin Bahner defeated two-term incumbent Republican Dennis Smith in House District 34B in Maple Grove.
- DFL and labor-endorsed Kathryn Eckhardt lost to Republican incumbent Peggy Scott in House District 35B (Anover, Coon Rapids, Ramsey).
- DFL and labor-endorsed Samantha Yang, running for House District 40B (Brooklyn Center and Brooklyn Park) won with nearly 73 percent of the vote, defeating Republican Robert Marvin. Longtime DFL incumbent Debra Hilstrom did not seek re-election.

House District 55A:

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More Local Union News

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Jason George, business manager of International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49, released the following statement: “This is a great day for the Iron Range and for the members of Local 49. We are thrilled this critical project, and the thousands of union construction jobs that it will create, has obtained this important milestone. Thank you to the 49ers who for more than 10 years have fought for these permits.”

“No project in the history of Minnesota has been more thoroughly evaluated,” said DNR commissioner Tom Landwehr. “Based on the DNR’s review, we are confident that the project can be built, operated, and reclaimed in compliance with Minnesota’s rigorous environmental standards, which are designed to protect human health and the environment.”

Landwehr said, “This does not mean that the project will not have impacts, but it does mean that the project meets Minnesota’s regulatory standards for these permits.”

Located near the cities of Hoyt Lakes and Babbitt, the proposed NorthMet mine would be an open pit mine to extract copper, nickel and cobalt.

The project still must win approval from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for air and water quality permits, from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a wetlands permit, and from local authorities.

Pipefitters Local 539: Children’s Christmas party planned December 1

Pipefitters Local 539 invites members and their families to the union’s annual children’s Christmas party, Saturday, December 1, beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 7800 Normandale Boulevard, Bloomington.

Members are asked to bring non-perishable food items for the food shelf.

Members also are reminded to bring a camera to take a picture with Santa! In addition to Santa, the party will include goodies, food and refreshments.

The pool will be open to families, so bring swimsuits!

SEIU Local 284: Nominations are open for 2019 ‘Member of the Year’

SEIU Local 284 has opened nominations for its 2019 “Member of the Year” award. The award is open to all SEIU Local 284 members. Candidates must be nominated by a member or one can nominate oneself. Candidates must provide an outstanding contribution to the education of students as well as being involved in their union and community.

The 2019 “Member of the Year” will be recognized at the SEIU Local 284 Leadership Assembly, Saturday, February 16, 2019.

Nominations are due in the office by Monday, January 7, 2019.

State House continued from page 1

and Allied Trades District Council 82, one of many unions which helped to field volunteers for doorknocks and phone banks. “There was a lot of energy,” Nelson said. “It was a big night for Labor.”

“When you have candidates who are committed to us, it motivates our members to get involved,” commented Adam Duininck, director of government affairs for the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters.

The Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation targeted ten suburban Minnesota House races as a top priority, helping to win nine of those races for the labor-endorsed candidate. The tenth race? The labor-endorsed candidate came close — losing by only 153 votes. See story, page 5.
$5.00 FOR 25 WORDS
An exclusive service for subscribing Union members only. Next deadline for Sell, Buy, Rent Ads: December 7. Copy must be mailed or delivered. NO TELEPHONE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Ads must be accompanied by payment in check or money order. Each ad must include your union affiliation and your telephone number, along with your mailing label. Over 25 words — 15¢ each extra word. Your ad runs in one issue only.

NOTICE
NEXT EDITION OF LABOR REVIEW: DECEMBER 21
Next Ad Deadline is December 7

USE IT OR LOSE IT!
In the era of Craig’s List, the number of ads we receive for ‘Sell, Buy, Rent’ has fallen steadily. By all accounts, however, these ads get results. But we may no longer offer this advertising opportunity to Labor Review readers if the number of ads can’t justify the space. You get 25 words for only $5.00. Send in your ad! Clean out your garage! Clean out your basement! Somebody wants the stuff you’re not using — and they will pay for it!


Wanted: Guitars and amplifiers made in the USA pre-1980. Also interested in drums and some other instruments. Bob, 612-521-4596.

Wanted: Old and broken outboard motors, old gas engines and chainsaws, also engine-related items like old spark plugs, tools, gas and oil cans, etc. Tom, 763-785-4031.

NO TELEPHONE ORDERS FOR SELL, BUY, RENT DEPARTMENT ADS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Wanted: Buying advertising-related items, one piece to entire collections, interests include beer, soda, liquor, tobacco, gas and oil and almost anything related to advertising. Older the better. Please call Garry at 763-546-8010 or text me pictures at 763-202-0067.

Don’t forget to cut out your mailing label and send it in with your Sell, Buy, Rent ad!

Wanted: Old coins, collections, bullion, paper money, gold coins, proof sets, mint sets, etc. Anything from pennies to paper. Best of all, I’ll pay cash and come to you. Please call Dick at 612-986-2566.

‘We’ve had a lot of calls on our ad. I have a lot of faith in that paper. If I have an ad in “Sell, Buy, Rent,” it does move.’ —R.S.

Snow and ice are coming… Clean out your garage for winter!

Make room for your car!
Sell what you don’t need with an ad in the Sell, Buy, Rent Department…

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IBEW Local Union 292
Minneapolis Electrical Workers

Holidays
Local 292 wishes friends and family a safe and festive Holiday Season. The office will be closed: Thursday, November 22 and Friday, November 23 for the Thanksgiving holiday; Monday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 25 for the Christmas holidays.

Holiday Parties
The Children’s Christmas Party will be Saturday, December 3 at 9:00 a.m. at the Minneapolis Convention Center, 1301 Second Ave. S., Minneapolis. As a reminder, the party is for members’ children and grandchildren.

The members-only party will be Friday, December 7 at 6:00 p.m. at the United Labor Centre, 312 Central Ave., Minneapolis.

The Retirees Christmas Party will be Wednesday, December 12 at 11:00 a.m. at the Church of St. Patrick, 6820 St. Patrick’s Lane, Eden.

Condolences
Brother Jerome E. Simpkins, Brother David C. Palmquist, Brother Earl J. Shamp
See you at the General Membership Meeting, 7:00 p.m. on the Second Tuesday
Paid for by IBEW Local 292 • www.ibew292.org

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Minneapolis Labor Review
2018 Holiday Issue

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Thank you to everyone who knocked on doors, made phone calls, passed out flyers at work, talked with friends and family — and voted!