AFL-CIO president Richard Trumka dies unexpectedly

By Don McIntosh, Northwest Labor Press

America’s top labor union leader, Richard Trumka, died August 5 of a heart attack at age 72. Trumka was president of the AFL-CIO, the 12.5-million-member federation that pools the efforts of 56 affiliated unions.

President Joe Biden called Trumka “a dear friend, a great American, and a good man,” in a statement on his passing.

AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer Liz Shuler, the federation’s number two officer, will serve as acting president pending an official appointment by the AFL-CIO executive council of an interim president until the national AFL-CIO convention next year.

Shuler, a native Oregonian who got her start in the labor movement at Portland-based IBEW Local 125, becomes the AFL-CIO’s first female president.

Born July 24, 1949, Richard Louis Trumka grew up in Nenoncolin, Pennsylvania, a small town near Pittsburgh. His father and grandfather worked in the mines, and so did he while he was in college at Penn State, becoming a member of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) 6290. After getting a law degree from Villanova University in Pennsylvania, he worked for the UMWA as a staff attorney from 1974 to 1979. Trumka got involved in a movement to reform the UMWA, and in 1982, at the age of 33, he was elected president of the national union.

As UMWA president, he established a solidarity program with Black mine workers in South Africa, and helped promote a boycott of Shell Oil until the multinational cut business ties to South Africa.

In 1989 and 1990 he helmed one of the most dramatic union showdowns of the era, the strike at Pittston Coal Company. After Pittston canceled the health insurance benefits of 1,500 retired and disabled miners and their families, UMWA went to court.

AFL-CIO president Richard Trumka, speaking November 8, 2015 at the University of Minnesota’s Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

AFL-CIO endorsed Mong��n French runs for second term

Mong��n French for Minneapolis Park Board, at large.

COVID surges with school year about to begin

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

MINNEAPOLIS — The nation’s public schools are resuming just as COVID-19 infection rates are soaring across the nation, the result of the much more infectious Delta variant.

According to news reports, some school districts across the country are reporting hundreds of COVID cases within just a few days of students and teachers returning to classrooms.

“What we all want is for kids to be back in school. That’s the best place for them to be,” said Bernie Burnham, vice president of Education Minnesota, the statewide teachers union.

Although some school districts — including the Minneapolis Public Schools — will be mandating masks for students and staff, that’s not the case in many districts.

“At this point, we’re being told by the Centers for Disease Control that wearing masks and vaccinating are the two best things to stop the spread,” she said.

SCHOOLS page 14

Early voting begins September 17 for November 2 elections

MINNEAPOLIS — Early voting begins September 17 for the November 2 general election. That means voters can request an absentee ballot to vote early by mail, or go to their local city hall or other designated voting center to cast their vote early in person.

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

In Minneapolis, early voting will be available at Minneapolis

Elections & Voter Services, 980 Hennepin Ave. E., beginning September 17. The hours will be Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., through October 15 (closed October 11). For additional information, visit vote.minneapolis.gov.

And in Bloomington, for example, beginning September 17 voters can go to the Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, to vote in-person.

In person voting hours are: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. plus 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, October 30 and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, November 1.

Remember, every vote counts! In a recent special election for mayor of Brooklyn Park, AFL-CIO endorsed Hollis Winston trailed his opponent by just one vote: 3,414 to 3,415. A recount was underway as the Labor Review went to press.

For AFL-CIO endorsed candidates, visit minneapolisunions.org.

Masks are now required again at the United Labor Centre

MINNEAPOLIS — Signs on the doors to the United Labor Centre were posted August 5 announcing that face masks now are required again in the common areas of the building.

An August 10 letter to tenants from the Labor Temple Association emphasized that the mask mandate applies to everyone, “regardless of vaccination status.”

The letter cited “the fast spread of the COVID Delta variant” and the example of the City of Minneapolis moving to require face masks in public buildings.

The letter said tenants can set their own face-covering rules within their own offices, but asked that building management be notified if any employee or visitor tests positive for COVID-19 or shows COVID symptoms.
Richard Trumka, 1949-2021

By Chelsie Glaubits Gabiou, President, Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation

Richard Trumka never wavered on his commitment to workers across this globe. For a leader serving during some of the United States’ most tumultuous times, he left a legacy of accomplishments as president of the United Mine Workers and as president of the AFL-CIO.

A new era of labor organizing was born under President Trumka’s leadership of AFL-CIO. Immigrant rights became labor rights. Fair trade became a priority. Right to Work was stopped in communities across this country. “Black Lives Matter” was draped across the AFL-CIO headquarters.

Richard Trumka knew that for the labor movement to grow, all workers needed a seat at the table.

Richard Trumka called himself a “trophy hunter,” in that he only shoots mature whitetail bucks. The truth is that early trophy hunters, including Theodore Roosevelt, were directly responsible for saving many species from extinction at the beginning of the twentieth century by playing field for workers within our legal system and within our government structures.

However, the PRO Act will not organize workers on its own. We must do that together. Together we will talk to coworkers, neighbors and friends about how to join together. We will open doors so all workers of every race can join together. We will go into industries we’ve historically been shut out of. We will reverse decades of austerity and come together to fight for prosperity for workers.

We will do this work in honor of President Trumka. We will do this work in honor of every worker who makes our communities run.

Reader responds to July issue’s hunting stories

I deeply enjoyed Steve Share’s article in the July 24, 2021 edition of the Minneapolis Labor Review regarding union siblings who hunt. It is an inclusive feeling to know that other union siblings also enjoy this ancient ritual of hunting that sustained humanity for hundreds of thousands of years. I appreciated the details in the article, such as Kelly Hannigan’s 12-gauge magnum turkey load, Rosey Garb’s near miss on the nine-point buck with her .270 rifle, and Brian Wegner’s deep relationship with his dogs. Steve Share is either a hunter himself or he is a great journalist. It’s good to see hunters portrayed as thoughtful and ethical people who are committed to conservation.

Some readers might be offended that Kelly Hannigan calls himself a “trophy hunter,” in that he only shoots mature whitetail bucks. The truth is that early trophy hunters, including Theodore Roosevelt, were directly responsible for saving many species from extinction at the beginning of the twentieth century by playing field for workers within our legal system and within our government structures.

Thanks again for the excellent article!

—Adam Tomczik
President, AFSCME Local 2938
Member, Minnesota Deer Hunters Association

MRLF makes four local endorsements

MINNEAPOLIS — Meeting via Zoom, delegates to the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO voted August 11 to approve four new endorsements for local elected offices.

The endorsements included:

- Lona Dallessandro, for Bloomington City Council, District III;
- Jim Leuthner, for St. Louis Park City Council, Ward 3;
- Dave Dirkswager, for Anoka-Hennepin School Board, District 4;
- Bill Menz, for Minneapolis Park Board, District 1.

Bloomington City Council, District III: Lona Dallessandro

The District III seat on the Bloomington city council is an open seat, with incumbent Jack Bologa not running for re-election. District III is in the northwest corner of the city, west of Lyndale Ave. AFL-CIO endorsed Lona Dallessandro is a longtime business executive as well as a church volunteer and community volunteer.

Website: www.VoteForLona.com

St. Louis Park City Council, Ward 3: Jim Leuthner

AFL-CIO endorsed Jim Leuthner is making a second run for St. Louis Park City Council, Ward 3. The incumbent, Rachel Harris, is not running. Ward 3 is bordered roughly by Highway 169 on the west, W. 28th St. and Minnetonka Blvd. on the north, Lake St. on the east, and Highway 7 on the south. Leuthner is a member of Carpenters Local 322 and serves a delegate to the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation.

Website: electjimleuthner.com

Anoka-Hennepin School Board, District 4: Dave Dirkswager

AFL-CIO endorsed Dave Dirkswager is running for the open seat for Anoka-Hennepin School Board, District 4. Incumbent Anna Dirkswager, Dave Dirkswager’s wife, is not running for re-election. District 4 includes northern Andover, Ham Lake, Nowthen, Oak Grove and northeastern Ramsey.

The Dirkswagers have 1st grade and 3rd grade students in the school district. Dave Dirkswager works as regional operational manager for the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District.

Website: davedirkswager.weebly.com

Minneapolis Park Board, District 1: Billy Menz

AFL-CIO endorsed Billy Menz was the only candidate to file for election for Minneapolis Park Board, District 1.

Menz is a teacher at Edison High School, a member of Minneapolis Federation of Teachers Local 59, and a youth baseball coach.

Website: billymenz.com
Events

August 26 through Labor Day: Labor Pavilion at MN State Fair to run reduced program, hours

SAINT PAUL — Canceled last year due to the pandemic, the Minnesota State Fair returns this year and will run Thursday, August 26 through Labor Day, Monday, September 6.

As the Labor Review went to press, the Minnesota AFL-CIO was planning for its Labor Pavilion to be open at this year’s State Fair but “it’s going to be scaled-back from previous years because of the pandemic,” reported Chris Shields, the state labor federation’s communications director.

The Labor Pavilion can be found at the corner of Dan Patch and Cooper (two blocks west of the fair’s Snelling Ave. entrance gate).

Labor Pavilion hours this year will be 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for each day of the fair (no evening hours this year).

“It’s the State Fair. Labor needs to be represented at the State Fair, especially because of all the hard work essential workers have been doing the past 18 months,” Shields said.

As in past years at the Labor Pavilion, you’ll find participating unions and union volunteers staffing several information kiosks. You can learn about union jobs and training. And you can learn more about important issues of concern to union members and the public — and what you can do to help.

Also as in past years, craftworkers will demonstrate their skills and unions will be offering free give-aways at their kiosks.

The Minnesota AFL-CIO will be giving away free union bandannas to people who fill out a postcard to send to elected officials.

In a big change from recent years, however, the Labor Pavilion will not be offering an extensive program of live music presented by members of the Twin Cities Musicians Union.

The Labor Pavilion also will not be offering live raffles as in past years.

“We want to avoid too much congregating,” Shields explained.

Live hosts from SAG-AFTRA and Actors Equity will be speaking to Labor Pavilion visitors through a public address system, going from kiosk to kiosk to interview union volunteers.

Access to the inside of the Labor Pavilion will be restricted to volunteers and staff — and masks will be required inside the building.

In addition, Shields said, “we’re asking unions to send only vaccinated volunteers this year.”

“We want to make this as safe as possible,” Shields said, adding “everything is subject to change depending on the situation with the Delta variant.”

For more information and the latest updates, visit mnaflcio.org.

September 2: Nellie Stone Johnson scholarship dinner raises funds, honors scholarship recipients

BLOOMINGTON — The annual Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship Dinner, will be Thursday, September 2.

The event will be at the DoubleTree by Hilton hotel, 7800 Normandale Blvd. in Bloomington. A reception and silent auction begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by the dinner and program at 6:30 p.m.

The featured speaker will be Yusef Mgeni, longtime St. Paul activist.

Tickets are $85 per person or $675 for a table of eight.

The Scholarship Program also encourages individual and union donations to the silent auction. Donations are tax deductible.

Tickets may be purchased online through August 25 at this website: studentsunited.org/nelliestonedinner34.

To pay by check, send in your name, amount of tickets requested, and check made out to “Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship” to: Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship, P.O. Box 40309, Saint Paul, MN 55104.

Proceeds from the dinner and silent auction support scholarships available to students of color from union families who attend or will attend one of the colleges or state universities in the Minnesota State System.

The scholarships honor the legacy of Nellie Stone Johnson, a pioneering African American trade unionist who served on the Minnesota State board.

The scholarships honor the legacy of Nellie Stone Johnson, a pioneering African American trade unionist who served on the Minnesota State board.

Scholarships ranging from up to $1,200 for part-time students and up to $2,500 for full-time students are given each year to students enrolled in community or technical college, along with undergraduate and graduate programs.

Learn more about Nellie Stone Johnson and the scholarship program online at nelliestone.org or call 651-738-1404.

June 1 was this year’s deadline to apply for scholarships.
Happy Labor Day and thank you for all of your hard work supporting Minnesota workers!

Your friend,

Amy Klobuchar
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September 8: Building Trades’ DADs Day golf event raises funds for diabetes research

HAM LAKE — The 25th annual “Dollars Against Diabetes” (DADs Day) golf event will be Wednesday, September 8 at Majestic Oaks Golf Club, 701 Buncker Lake Blvd. NE in Ham Lake.

Hosted by the Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades Council, the event raises funds for diabetes research. The cost is $150 per golfer, $600 per foursome, or $100 for dinner and drinks only. The fee includes continental breakfast, 18 holes of golf (including cart), award banquet, steak dinner, and two drinks from the beverage cart or bar.

To register, send checks to Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades Council, 312 Central Ave. SE, Suite 556, Minneapolis, MN 55414.

For more details or questions, contact dan@mplsbctc.org.

More Events

September 23: Twins will play Toronto Blue Jays for annual ‘Trades Night at Target Field’

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Twins will play the Toronto Blue Jays for this year’s “Trades Night at Target Field,” planned Thursday, September 23.

Game time is 6:40 p.m.

Unlike past years, the Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades Council will not host a pre-game picnic at the Minneapolis Farmers Market.

Trades Night tickets— $27, $39 or $47 — will include a $10 voucher for food and beverages at the ballpark. For tickets, contact Luis at 612-659-3575 or luisbreazeale@twinsbaseball.com.

For the latest event updates, visit www.facebook.com/mlpsbctc.

‘Fare For All’ begins shift back to indoor sales for discounted groceries at community sites

MINNEAPOLIS — Fare For All, which sells discounted grocery packages, has begun shifting back to indoor sales at its community distribution sites after running only drive-through sales for the past 18 months. Fare For All’s posted schedule notes which sites now will be offering indoor sales.

COVID safety protocols include asking all customers, volunteers and staff to wear face masks at the indoor sale sites.

Visit fareforall.org for more COVID safety protocols for the indoor sale sites.

Fare For All offers a savings of 40 percent on grocery items, currently selling a produce pack for $10, a mini meat pack for $11, a combo produce and mini meat pack for $20, a mega meat pack for $25.

Here is the coming schedule for Fare For All’s sites in the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation’s seven-county region (sales are drive-through unless noted):

- Minneapolis, Friday, September 10, 1:00–3:00 p.m., Open Arms of Minnesota, 2500 Bloomington Ave. So.
- Buffalo, Tuesday, September 14, 4:00–6:00 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1200 Highway 25 South.
- Richfield, Tuesday, September 21, 3:00–5:00 p.m., INDOORS, Richfield Community Center, 7000 Nicollet Ave.
- St. Louis Park, Wednesday, September 22, 4:00–6:00 p.m., INDOORS, Vista Lutheran Church, 4003 Wooddale Ave. So.
- New Hope, Wednesday, September 29, 3:00–5:00 p.m., INDOORS, St. Joseph Parish Center, 8701 36th Ave. N.
- Anoka, Thursday, September 30, 4:00–6:00 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1601 S. 4th Ave.
- Golden Valley, Friday, October 1, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Animal Humane Society, 845 Meadow Lane N.
- Minneapolis, Friday, October 1, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., INDOORS, Laborers Local 563 union hall, 901 14th Ave. NE. (one-half block west of Central Ave. on 14th Ave. NE).
- The Fare For All sale at the Laborers Hall is hosted by Working Partnerships, the community services arm of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation.

The sales are weather dependent and are subject to change at the last minute.

The specific grocery packages offered at each location will be announced the week of the sale on the Fare For All Facebook page: facebook.com/fareforall.

Fare For All is open to anyone who wishes to save money on groceries and the program has no income requirements.

The Fare For All sales accept payment by credit card, debit card, or EBT.

Check the Fare For All website — fareforall.org — for more information, including additional distribution sites and dates in the Twin Cities area.
By John Welsh, RN, MNA Health and Safety Committee member

This summer, the Biden Administration issued new workplace safety rules regarding COVID-19 that we believe give nurses important rights to protect themselves as the pandemic continues.

While the COVID-19 vaccine and increased supply of Personal Protective Equipment have dramatically improved nurse safety compared to last year, COVID-19 remains dangerous, and healthcare workers remain vulnerable. These new rules are essential to hold employers accountable for worker safety.

Technically, what the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration did was determine that employee exposure to COVID-19 presents a grave danger to workers in healthcare settings and issued Emergency Temporary Standards to address the issue. The document covers 900 pages.

New requirements include:

- All healthcare employers must have written infection control safety and implementation plans developed in consultation with non-management employees and their representatives.
- Implementing lifesaving respiratory protection against aerosol transmission of the virus for nurses and other frontline healthcare workers caring for suspected and confirmed COVID-19 patients.
- Mandating wearing masks, screenings, physical distancing, and barriers in the workplace. However, fully vaccinated healthcare workers don’t have to wear masks or adhere to distancing requirements if they are in “well-defined areas where all employees are fully vaccinated.”
- Employers are to send home any employee who tests positive for COVID-19, is suspected of being infected or is symptomatic for defined periods of time. When that happens, healthcare employers with more than ten people on staff must continue paying workers who can’t operate remotely their normal salary up to $1,400 a week for the first two weeks they are absent. However, the exact amount may vary if workers are sick for a longer period.

Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) and Nurses National United (NNU) leaders have welcomed these new standards. As of June, NNU reports that more than 400 RNs have died of COVID-19. In Minnesota, there have been 600,000 cases of COVID-19. More than seven percent of them were healthcare workers. This is the first time OSHA has used emergency temporary standards in nearly 40 years, and they did so despite opposition from hospitals. Union leaders believe these standards will become an important benchmark for protecting healthcare workers from infectious disease.

“This is a major victory for those who have worked so hard to achieve this recognition of the terrible toll on nurses and other healthcare workers, against the malfeasance and resistance of employers and many elected officials,” said NNU executive director Bonnie Castillo, RN in an announcement of the new standards.

A year ago, we nurses were forced to re-use N-95 masks during multiple shifts. Fortunately, that is no longer the case. But one lesson from this pandemic is that we cannot trust our employers to put employee or patient safety over budget concerns.

If you think your employer is not taking the necessary steps to protect you from COVID-19, contact your MNA leaders and consider filing a complaint through OSHA.

John Welsh, RN, is a nurse at Unity Hospital in Fridley, a 10-year member of the Minnesota Nurses Association, and a member of the MNA Health and Safety Committee.

To file an OSHA complaint, contact Minnesota OSHA Compliance:
oshacompliance@state.mn.us
651-284-5050 or 877-470-6742

This story originally was published August 5, 2021 by mnnurses.org/blog.

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Proud to SUPPORT our union sisters, brothers and siblings on Labor Day

“We’re the front line, not the bottom line”
Bloomington City Council

Nathan Coulter: ‘Always an ally of labor’

BLOOMINGTON — “I’ve always considered myself an ally of labor,” says Nathan Coulter. Coulter is running for re-election for an At Large seat on the Bloomington City Council with the endorsement of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

During Coulter’s first term on the City Council, he says he has tried to maintain relationships with AFSCME, the Building Trades, and UNITE HERE — “both with the leaders of unions and the on-the-ground members.”

Coulter has helped lead the effort to pass the Earned Sick and Safe leave ordinance in Bloomington, which he says will come to a City Council vote by the end of the year.

Bloomington long has been divided east and west by income and race. But, Coulter says, “more and more we are seeing our future is tied together. We can’t pretend we are two cities. “Being elected city-wide, it gives you a perspective,” Coulter says. “Our job is the entire city.”

A life-long Bloomington resident, Coulter grew up in a union household and graduated from the Bloomington Public Schools. His mother taught at Normandale Community College for 39 years and was a member of Education Minnesota. “From a very young age, she made it clear she had job security and that the benefits she had coming from being a union member,” he says.

Coulter earned a BA in Music and Political Science from St. Olaf College, and a master’s degree in Health, Housing, and Education Policy Leadership from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota.

Coulter has worked for the past nine years as a legislative assistant for the Minnesota Senate.

Coulter and his wife Charity have two young daughters. Charity, who works for the Lakeville school district, is an Education Minnesota member.

Website: neighborsfornathan.com

Patrick Martin: ‘Unions built the middle class’

BLOOMINGTON — “Unions helped build the middle class in this country,” says Patrick Martin. He saw that dynamic benefit his own family, where his mother was a member of the flight attendants union and his uncles were members of the airline mechanics union. “It helped give me the shot I had to get started,” he says.

Running for a second term on the Bloomington City Council, Martin represents District IV in the city’s northeast corner. He is running with the endorsement of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

Martin grew up in east Bloomington in the Versailles Apartments — the same development where, years later as a city council member, he was involved in supporting the apartments’ renovation through the city’s Affordable Housing Trust Fund in partnership with nonprofit developer Aeon. (The apartments now are called Blooming Meadows South).

Martin sees investing in east Bloomington as key to the city’s future. Diverse east Bloomington, he says, will be the heart of the city’s population growth and “it’s going to be the heart of our economic driver in the future.”

Martin also has been a strong advocate for Bloomington’s parks, helping to create the city’s new Parks and Recreation Division and lead the city’s first Parks Master Planning process. He previously served on the Bloomington Parks, Arts & Recreation Commission and Board of Health.

Martin graduated from Holy Angels, then earned a degree from the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire in Political Science and Philosophy.

Martin has worked in the social services sector and currently works in fundraising at Second Harvest Heartland, a nonprofit which supplies the region’s emergency foodshelves.

Website: patrickforbloomington.com
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Union labor made America great.

Happy Labor Day!

From your brothers and sisters of USW Local 2002
Londel French: Member of the union family

MINNEAPOLIS—“I’d love my union family to help me continue the things I’m doing to help people for the next four years,” says Londel French.

French is running for re-election for a second term as an At Large member of the Minneapolis Park Board. He has been endorsed by the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

Running four years ago, French offered his nearly 20 years of experience working with Minneapolis youth in the park system and the school system.

For nearly 20 years, he worked in special education for the Minneapolis Public Schools and was a member of Minneapolis Federation of Teachers and Education Support Professionals Local 59 and a former longtime union steward.

French currently works for the statewide teachers union, Education Minnesota, as a racial equity organizing specialist.

Serving on the Park Board, French has been a strong advocate focusing on recreational programs and jobs programs.

He helped win more protections for the front desk staff at the park system’s 50 recreation centers — “Code 8” employees — who gained safe and sick time and a guaranteed number of work hours each week. “That was a good labor win,” he says. These workers, he notes, are “the first person kids talk to when they come in our buildings. They’re very important.”

“I was a Code 8,” he adds. “It was financially worthless and emotionally priceless.”

This summer, French championed opening the North Commons pool and swim programs for free.

French sees the park system as a way the city can engage its youth in positive, skill-building activities. “We need more programming,” he says. In particular, he thinks the parks should focus on the 18-25 year old age group — “we forget about these guys.”

Jono Cowgill: Park staff create community

MINNEAPOLIS — “We’ve had a really hard couple of years,” says Jono Cowgill. “From my vantage point, the constant has been the people in the park system doing the people’s work.”

Cowgill is running for a second term to represent District 4 on the Minneapolis Park Board. He has the endorsement of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

District 4 includes parts of downtown and several neighborhoods including Elliot Park, Whittier, Wedge, Stevens Square, Kenwood, Bryn Mawr, Cedar-Isles-Dean, and East Calhoun.

Currently serving as president of the Park Board, Cowgill says his focus has been to make Minneapolis parks “more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable.”

Cowgill also says park staff are a priority, including increasing the number of park keepers and children’s program staff. He wants to see the park system creating more full-time positions and moving away from contractors.

In collaboration with fellow Park Board member Londel French, Cowgill led in moving the park system to partner with the school system to provide wrap-around services as part of the community schools initiative. “It’s something I’m proud we started,” Cowgill says. “It’s one of the great pieces of design of our park system and school system that there are parks adjacent to schools.”

Raised in a union household, Cowgill himself grew up in the Minneapolis parks and schools. “I was in Rec Plus as a kid. I played park basketball,” he says.

Running four years ago, Cowgill said, “we need to focus on working families and the workers who are there every day in our parks.”

Now, Cowgill wants to say, “thank you…The folks showing up every day make our public spaces and our city function…They create community.”

Website: jonocowgill.org
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US Senate confirmation votes bring 3-2 worker-friendly majority to Labor Board

WASHINGTON (PAI) — The U.S. Senate confirmed three well-known union attorneys nominated by President Joe Biden to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) last month. The confirmations will bring a worker-friendly 3-2 majority back to the agency, along with a person from labor seated as its top lawyer.

On July 21, the Senate confirmed union attorney Jennifer Abruzzo as General Counsel. The vote was along party lines, 51-50, with Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris breaking the tie. Abruzzo was Special Counsel for Strategic Initiatives for Communications Workers of America (CWA).

On July 28, the Senate confirmed David Prouty in a 53-46 vote. Prouty was General Counsel for New York-based Service Employees Local 32BJ. Republican Sens. Susan Collins of Maine, and Lisa Murkowski and Mark Sullivan of Alaska, joined all Democrats and Independents in voting for Prouty.

Prouty will replace Republican member William Emanuel, a union-busting attorney from Los Angeles whose term ends later this month.

Earlier in the day on July 28, the Senate confirmed Gwynne Wilcox by a 52-47 margin. Collins and Murkowski were the only Republicans to support Wilcox, who will be the first Black woman in NLRB history to serve on the Board.

Wilcox is a pro-worker attorney and partner in the Levy, Ratner law firm, whose offices are in the same building as the headquarters of the Office and Professional Employees in New York.

Wilcox will fill a seat that has been vacant since 2018.

Abruzzo will succeed Acting General Counsel Peter Sung Ohr. Ohr, a NLRB regional director from Chicago, was appointed Acting General Counsel after Joe Biden was elected president. One of Biden’s first acts was to fire General Counsel Peter Robb, a Trump appointee.

Prior to joining CWA in 2017, Abruzzo worked at the NLRB for 23 years in several roles, including as acting general counsel, field attorney, supervisory field attorney, deputy regional attorney in Miami, and deputy assistant general counsel.

The General Counsel's office wields key powers within the NLRB, which handles most labor-management relations disputes in the U.S. Her office decides what cases to bring and proposes rules that cover a wide range of labor-management issues, such as union elections.
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— Matt Utecht, President

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Happy Labor Day!
from the Union that Delivers for You.

Minneapolis Branch 9 National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC)
SAINT PAUL — A mix of Cuban dance music and union organizing talk made for a fun, impactful evening July 30 at Mears Park in downtown Saint Paul.

The Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO organized the event as part of a nationwide week of action in support of the Protect the Right to Organize Act (the PRO Act). This federal legislation — currently passed in the U.S. House and stalled in the U.S. Senate — would strengthen workers’ ability to organize unions.

Charanga Tropical, performing Cuban dance music, helped to draw a crowd. The band includes Twin Cities Musicians Union members.

In between sets, union members addressed the audience, emphasized the importance of passing the PRO Act, and encouraged everyone to sign postcards to Minnesota’s U.S. Senators.

“It could also be called the ‘People’s Right to Organize PRO ACT page 14

Lindsey West, member of Minneapolis Federation of Teachers Local 59: “Our human and worker rights are not guaranteed… I implore you to pass the PRO Act.”

Matt Walker, member of IBEW Local 110: “We need to band together… stand up for our rights as people.”

Volunteers Cat Lenander, IBEW Local 110 member, and David Lenander, retired, staffed a post-card writing table.

IN THE PARK

PRO ACT page 14

The music of Charanga Tropical drew salsa dancers to the dance area at Mears Park. The band includes Twin Cities Musician Union members.
To Our Members and Friends
We Extend Best Wishes for A Great Labor Day

SHEET METAL WORKERS LOCAL 10
MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES
WISH EVERYONE
A SAFE & HAPPY LABOR DAY
— 2021 —

Members: Local #10’s Annual Picnic / Booya will be September 11
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Highland Park Picnic Pavilion
1200 Montreal Ave., St. Paul

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www.minneapolisunions.org

PRO Act: Passed in US House, stalled in Senate

Act,” said speaker Matt Walker, a member of IBEW Local 110 who is active with the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus.

“Unions have been just so transformational in my life,” he said, including providing higher wages and benefits. “I can’t say enough about unions.”

“We have the power,” Walker said. “We need to band together… and stand up for our rights as people.”

Under current labor law, even when workers win union recognition, they often fail to win a first contract.

The PRO Act aims to remedy that problem, Walker noted, and “it will help to ensure a first contract is reached after a union is established.”

When employers obstruct worker rights, “right now, nothing happens. There are no consequences,” said Diana Tastad-Damer, UFCW Local 1189’s legislative and political director. “The PRO Act will ensure employers are held accountable.”

Another speaker, Lindsey West, introduced herself as “a wife, a mother, and a proud Minneapolis Federation of Teachers union member.”

During the pandemic, she said, “too many of us began to see how little our bosses cared about us.”

“Our human and worker rights are not guaranteed,” she said. “I implore you to pass the PRO Act.”

For more information: passtheproact.org

Students: Each district deciding its own plans

Callahan expressed frustration that the school district will not engage with teachers in planning COVID safety protocols — even after more than a year.

And the district has not kept teachers informed. “We’re due back next week and we have no real guidance about what are the expectations,” reported Lindsey West, fifth grade teacher at Barton elementary.

For more on this story: minneapolisunions.org

Trumka: Planned to retire next year

continued from page 1

widows, miners struck Pittston mines in Virginia, West Virginia and Kentucky. The strike soon spread, with supporters arriving from around the country. Strikers organized mass pickets, road blockades, and a campaign of non-violent civil disobedience that culminated in a three-day occupation of Pittson’s primary coal processing plant. Pittston settled, and restored miners’ health and retirement benefits.

In 1995, Trumka joined then-SEIU president John Sweeney on a “New Voice” slate running for the leadership of the national AFL-CIO. They beat Thomas Donahue in the first contested convention election in AFL-CIO history, and Trumka served the next 14 years as secretary treasurer — the number two office — until Sweeney retired as AFL-CIO president in 2009. Trumka ran unsupported to succeed Sweeney in 2009.

Trumka presided over the labor movement through the 2009 recession, the election of Barack Obama, and the disappointment that followed when Obama declined to push for labor law reform. He also faced a wave of public employee union-busting that began in Wisconsin in 2010 and culminated in the antiunion Supreme Court ruling in Janus v AFSCME in 2018. And he witnessed the emergence of the 2011 Occupy Wall Street movement and a 2018-2019 teacher strike wave that began in West Virginia.

Trumka could be a powerful orator at times, and a video of his 2008 speech on racism and Obama went viral, garnering almost 600,000 views.

With Obama and later with Donald Trump, Trumka meted out criticism and praise when it was called for. He was critical of Obama for dragging his heels protecting workers from silica dust, and for the Affordable Care Act’s hefty “Cadillac” tax on union health plans. He criticized Trump for anti-union appointments and for cutting taxes on the wealthy and corporations.

Like Sweeney before him, Trumka tried many strategies to revive organized labor, but the union movement continued its gradual slide, and dropped from 14.9 percent of the workforce in 2009 to 10.8 percent in 2020.

Trumka was the fifth person to serve as president since the AFL-CIO was formed in 1955, and was the first AFL-CIO president to die in office. Trumka had announced that he would step down at the AFL-CIO’s quadrennial convention coming next year.

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For more information: passtheproact.org
Trades Night at Target Field
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Let’s reflect this Labor Day on the hard-won gains that we inherited from our labor predecessors, and resolve to do the same for future generations of union members

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Steve Brandt is a 44-year union member, Minnesota Newspaper & Communications Guild, TNG-CWA Local 37002

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Leadership changes, but Trades’ focus remains on building careers, communities

By Michael Moore, editor, Saint Paul Union Advocate

BRAINERD — A new president gav- eled the 75th convention of the Minnesota State Building and Construction Trades Council to order at Madden’s on Gull Lake July 22, as delegates unanimously affirmed their executive board in electing Laborers Local 563 business manager Joe Fowler to lead the statewide organization as president.

Fowler was elected president May 24 by the executive board to serve out the re mainder of the Harry Melander’s term, following Melander’s retirement as president (Labor Review, June 26, 2021). Fowler now will serve for a full four-year term.

President emeritus Harry Melander, who retired in June after 12 years leading the Council, administered the oath of office to Fowler and other executive officers as one of the convention’s first orders of business.

“I will give it my all to advocate the just cause of organized construction labor in the state of Minnesota,” Fowler said, thanking delegates for their support.

While the leadership of the organization has changed — it’s the first convention for newly-hired executive director Tom Dicklich, too — the Building Trades Council’s work remains focused on fostering family-sustaining, high-quality job opportunities for tradespeople across the state.

In practice, Fowler said, that means recruiting new workers — particularly veterans and workers from underrepresented communities — into unions’ registered apprenticeship programs to keep up with the industry’s demand for skilled labor. It means organizing to end mis treatment of workers on non-union construction sites, where wage theft, employee misclassification and labor trafficking are too common. And it means opposing right-to-work laws and attacks on prevailing wage at the State Capitol.

By most of those measures, Minnesota’s Building Trades unions have fared better than their counterparts in other Midwest states, and Fowler said the reason for that is unity.

“Sticking together and showing solidi ty is what sets us apart from other organizations that would like to see us and organized labor as a whole fail, and that will never happen,” he said. “If we do not have solidarity, we do not have a strong Building Trades, and in Minnesota that is just not an option.”

The Trades have worked in recent years to attract bipartisan support for their agenda at the State Capitol, and that support was on display in the string of guest speakers who lined up to take the podium. Mayors, state legislators, agency commissioners, members of Congress and Governor Tim Walz all touted their work in support of union tradespeople.

Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka, a Republican whose district includes the Gull Lake area, told delegates his caucus, “Sticking together and showing solidarity is what sets us apart from other organizations that would like to see us undermine collective bargaining or attack prevailing wage.

“Times are changing,” Gazelka said. “We’re the ones that are fighting for the mining jobs, whether it’s copper-nickel or taconite mining. We’re the ones standing up for the pipelines.”

But Walz warned against politicians who frame a “false choice” when it comes to energy policy and mining. He said his administration is determined not to “cut corners,” but has moved projects like the PolyMet mine through the permitting and review processes quickly.

It is Senate Republicans’ move to force out his head of the state’s Pollution Control Agency, Walz said, that has slowed that process down.

“They’re playing games with your jobs,” Walz said. “They’re playing games with a process that now works. This isn’t about me picking winners or losers, it’s about following the science, following the law and following the process.”

“We did all those things. And we’re a long ways down that process on the PolyMet mine, but it’s pretty damn hard to go back to an agency when that commis sioner is no longer there,” Walz said.

Building Trades page 19
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Classes
New Brookwood Labor College offers three online classes for Fall 2021

SAINT PAUL — The New Brookwood Labor College will be offering three online classes for Fall 2021. The classes will meet weekly from September 27 through December 10.

The class schedule includes:
- Working Class History: Tuesdays, 6:30-9:00 p.m.
- Labor and Film: Wednesdays, 7:00-9:30 p.m.
- People’s Leadership: Thursdays, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Sliding scale tuition: $100-$500 per class.

No one will be turned away due to inability to pay. For more information, or to register online, visit newbrookwood.org.

DFL lawmakers also called out Republicans for bailing on the Building Trades-backed refinery safety measure during the special session in June.

The measure, which would have required skilled laborers at sensitive petroleum facilities complete a registered apprenticeship program, gained steam after Marathon Petroleum replaced local, union contractors at its Saint Paul Park refinery with workers from out-of-state, non-union contractors. The bill passed the DFL-controlled House but was stripped from the Senate jobs bill after more than a dozen Republicans who originally voted to advance the measure withdrew their support.

Representative Rob Ecklund, a DFLer from International Falls, said the vote revealed who is “standing with labor not just when it’s politically convenient, but all of the time.”

A diplomatic Fowler sought to cool the political rhetoric, insisting the Council, under his leadership, “will always be nonpartisan in the sense that we support those who support us and who understand labor is always on the side of the worker.”

There were some issues on which everyone in the room could agree, including a renewed state investment in Helmets to Hardhats, which has successfully introduced thousands of military veterans to career opportunities in the union trades. Justin Ross, a former Marine who heads the statewide initiative, said 840 Minnesota veterans have enrolled in union’s apprenticeship programs over the last three years after accessing the program.

“I know firsthand what it can be like returning from military service,” Ross said. “I spent over five years bouncing from job to job, trying college a couple times. It wasn’t until I found my way into an apprenticeship program with Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 that I really found a home.”

Another point of universal agreement: appreciation for Harry Melander’s leadership during the 12 years he served as president of the Council. Walz presented the president emeritus with a plaque declaring July 22 “Harry Melander Day in Minnesota.”

In characteristically brief remarks, Melander assured delegates their organization is in good hands, and left them with a few words of wisdom.

“Teach the trade; honor the craft,” he said. “Just remember that. Teach the trade to the young people, and honor the craft amongst ourselves. And thank you for the privilege of serving the last 12 years.”

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Norman Meier, Vice President
Lisa Dubbelee, Secretary
Nick Krueger, Treasurer
Christina Thompson and Tina Wood, Co-Chief Stewards

Wishing our members and all working families a safe and Happy Labor Day

The Officers and Executive Board of
GCC/IBT Local 1-M

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Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005: Members ratify three-year contract with Metro Transit

Members of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005 voted overwhelmingly August 15-16 to approve a new three-year agreement with Metro Transit.

The vote was 71 percent in favor, 29 percent opposed, the union reported.

By a similar margin, ATU Local 1005 members had rejected an earlier Metro Transit offer in a May 17 vote (Labor Review, May 29, 2021).

The new agreement offers the same wage increases as the contract that was rejected in May — 2 percent the first year, 2 percent the second year, 2.5 percent the third year — but also includes a one-time payment of $1,000, reported Ryan Timlin, Local 1005 president.

In addition, Timlin said, the contract includes stronger language to protect part-timers from going over their hours and more equity for part-timers for accruing sick time.

The contract does not include hazard pay, which Local 1005 had sought for members who worked through the COVID-19 pandemic.

The new agreement comes more than one year after Local 1005’s previous contract expired. “It took a year,” Timlin said.

Back in September 2020, ATU Local 1005 members voted by a 94 percent margin to reject Metro Transit’s original contract offer and authorize a strike. The original offer was for a one-year agreement with no increase in wages (Labor Review, October 16, 2020).

“Members organizing and fighting back really helped get where we’re at,” Timlin said.

The two percent wage increase for the first year of the agreement will be retroactive, Timlin said, and will be paid in a lump sum, likely in October.

Education Minnesota:

October 21 MEA conference will be a hybrid in-person and online event

This year’s Minnesota Educator Academy — “MEA” — will be Thursday, October 21 and will be offered as a hybrid in-person and online event.

The 2021 MEA conference lineup includes about 70 in-person workshops, focusing on racial equity in education, student and educator mental health, classroom strategies and much more.

About a dozen of those workshops will be offered in real time online, while another 50 courses are available on Education Minnesota’s MEA Online for members to complete at their own pace.

The conference is free and open to educators Minnesota members and aspiring educators only.

Advance registration is required. Registration begins August 30.

Members may attend in-person October 21 at the Saint Paul RiverCentre or log on to watch select sessions virtually.

For more information, or to register, visit educationminnesota.org/events.

IBEW Local 160:

Business rep Dan Kieffer retires

Dan Kieffer has retired after 21 years as a business representative for International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 160 and 29 years as a lineman at Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Association.

“Having dealt primarily with our Rural Electric Cooperatives and Municipal Utilities, I want to thank the stewards both past and present for the unending support and cooperation,” Kieffer commented. “This entire union is dependent on the stewards acting as the eyes and ears for the business representatives.”

“This job can get very contentious — also very rewarding,” Kieffer said. “The biggest reward is the wonderful people I have met.”

“I want to thank Dan for his years of service and commitment to the members,” said Robert Boogren, Local 160 business manager. “All of us here wish him the best in retirement!”

Darrin Helget has replaced Kieffer as business representative.

Machinists Local Lodge 459:

Culligan workers approve contract that eliminates two-tier system

Workers at Culligan Water Systems in Minnetonka voted August 2 to approve a new one-year contract that eliminates a two-tier wage system.

The 23 workers at the site are members of Local Lodge 459 of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers.

“It was a huge win for this group,” said Andrew Peltier, IAMAW District 77 business representative.

IAMAW District 77 posted on Facebook to note the significance of the contract: “Companies try to take advantage of two-tier systems to pit the long-time workers against new workers, which undermines the collective bargaining power of the workers as a whole. It’s not easy to get rid of a two-tier system once it’s in place, but the Culligan workers won by recognizing the power of sticking together!”

Peltier said the new contract also won language to create a labor-management committee. Now, he said, “we have the opportunity to sit down and build a relationship.”

State Retiree Council plans convention September 19

MAPLEWOOD — The 23rd Annual Convention of the Minnesota State Retiree Council, AFL-CIO, will be Sunday, September 19 at the Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 union hall, 1681 E. Cope Ave. in Maplewood.

The convention will start at 10 a.m., with registration beginning at 9:15 a.m. Expected adjournment will be at 3:00 p.m.

This year’s convention will be “hybrid” with in-person attendance at the Sheet Metal Workers Hall and other delegates participating via Zoom.

Delegates who ARE NOT FULLY VACCINATED are asked to attend via Zoom, organizers directed.

Convention business will include nomination and election of the five executive officers, proposed by-law changes for selection of board members, awards to affiliates and individuals and consideration of resolutions.

Speakers are still being arranged.

All affiliates should have received a complete convention call including delegate credentials.

The convention call packet is available at the State Retiree Council’s website, mnretired.org. To see all the convention documents, click on “Convention Materials” in the menu.

For more information, visit mnretired.org or call 651-227-7647 or 1-800-652-9004.

Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 Retirees:

‘Rusty Tinners’ will meet September 14

The Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 “Rusty Tinners” retirees club will resume meeting Tuesday, September 14 at the Maplewood union hall, 1681 E. Cope Ave. A potluck lunch will begin at 12 noon. The meeting will follow lunch at 1:00 p.m.

If available, one of our business agents and/or someone from our benefits office will share updates and answer questions.

All retired Sheet Metal workers and spouses are welcome to our monthly meetings. We meet the second Tuesday of the month, September through December and March through May.

For more information, contact Frank Costa at 651-484-1363.

U of M Facilities Management and Maintenance Retirees:

Meet last Tuesday of month

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

New retirees welcome!
North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters:
Walleye Classic coming September 25

The Carpenters North Star Walleye Classic will be Saturday, September 25, at Trapper’s Landing Lodge on Leech Lake in Walker, Minnesota.

Hosted by the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters, the event will award $10,000 in prizes (must be present to win).

The registration fee is $125 per person or $250 per team.

For competition rules and the registration form, visit northcountrycarpenter.org/carpenters-north-star-walleye-classic.

Each person must fill out the registration and prize form and sign it to be eligible for the tournament.

For more information, call 218-759-0153 or email pmccrorry@ncscc.org.

Operating Engineers Local 49:
Jason George wins second term as business manager

Jason George won re-election as business manager of International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49, in the results of mail-in balloting announced August 18. In a Facebook post that night, George said he defeated challenger Matt Rooney with 71 percent of the vote.

George is a former political director of Local 49 who first won election as business manager three years ago, defeating 15-year incumbent Glen Johnson.

Prior to joining Local 49, from 2006-2008, George worked as a political organizer for the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO. He had worked previously as an organizer for UNITE HERE Local 21 in Rochester, Minnesota.

SEIU Healthcare Minnesota:
Vice president Jigme Ugen awarded

Jigme Ugen, executive vice president of SEIU Healthcare Minnesota, has been honored with the prestigious “Art Takei Leadership Award 2021” from the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA).

The award was presented as part of APALA’s August 6-8, 2021 convention, which took place online. In presenting the award, APALA said Ugen “has exemplified strong leadership within APALA.”

The award was inspired by the life of Art Takei, a founder of APALA who died in 2016. As the Retiree Luncheon August 16. As the Labor Review went to press August 19, the strike was in its fourth day.

The window cleaners are members of Service Employees International Union Local 26. Their contract expired August 15.

Ugen is also the founder and the president of APALA Minnesota and the second vice president of the SEIU Asian Pacific Islanders Caucus.

SEIU Local 26:
Window washers strike

Highrise window cleaners who clean the windows of Twin Cities skyscrapers began an unfair labor practice strike August 16. As the Labor Review went to press August 19, the strike was in its fourth day.

The window cleaners are members of Service Employees International Union Local 26. Their contract expired August 15.

They perform one of the most dangerous jobs in the state,” commented Brahim Kone, vice president of Local 26.

During the COVID pandemic, the window cleaners were asked to take on COVID cleaning duties without proper training or personal protective equipment, Kone added. Over one-half of the group came down with COVID.

Joshua Haynes, a highrise window cleaner and SEIU Local 26 member who works for Final Touch, said “the biggest thing we’re fighting for in our new contract is an apprenticeship program that would help train workers in the procedures and safety. We know that having a long-term training program would be good for the workers and for our employers.”

UFCW Local 663:
As COVID surges, union asks grocery stores and meatpackers to reinstate hazard pay

With the Delta variant leading to a surge of COVID cases in Minnesota, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 663 has asked grocery stores and meatpacking plant employers to reinstate hazard pay.

In an August 4 letter to Cub foods CEO Mike Stigers, UFCW Local 663 president Matt Utecht argued for the reinstatement of $2 per hour hazard pay paid earlier during the pandemic. Utecht wrote: “At a time when employers are implementing mask and other mandates for employees and encouraging personal responsibility for customers, reinstating hazard pay shows appreciation for the continuing sacrifices of grocery store workers on the frontlines of this pandemic who are putting their physical and mental health, and that of their families, at risk to serve and feed our communities.”

August 11 the JBS pork processing plant in Worthington, Minnesota re-instated a mask mandate for plant workers.

The following day, UFCW’s Utecht wrote to Matthew Lovell, JBS head of labor relations: “As the coronavirus Delta variant surges, I urge you to reinstate the $4 per hour hazard pay bonuses at JBS in Worthington… [W]e are hearing about positive Delta variant cases amongst workers.”

Local 663 sent similar letters to other union grocery store employers and meatpacking employers.
**SELL, BUY, RENT DEPARTMENT**

This reader service is provided for Labor Review subscribing Union members who are in good standing with their locals. No commercial ads of business firms or any sidelines or hobbies of union members who are selling products or services can be advertised in these columns. For display advertising, please contact the Labor Review. Mail or deliver your ad and payment to: Sell, Buy, Rent Department, Minneapolis Labor Review, 312 Central Ave., Suite 542 (Fifth Floor), Minneapolis, MN 55414, NEXT DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 10.

**NOTICE**

NEXT EDITION OF LABOR REVIEW: SEPTEMBER 25, 2021

Next Ad Deadline is September 10

**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 and we will pay for it!


For Sale: Keep little kiddos safe from your fireplace, grill, wood stove. KidCo HearthGate G70. Fits hearths 6-ft. wide by 2-ft. deep, includes five 24-in. sections, one with a gate. Like-new in the original box. Used just one week at a cabin. $75. Steve, 612-715-2067.

‘I recently ran an ad to sell two lawn mowers. I had super success… You guys are doing a good job and I really appreciate it.’ —L.C., IBEW Local 292 retiree

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

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.

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.

Wanted: Lead ingots, wheel weights, lead water pipe, any form of lead to make sinkers and jigs. Call Ozzie, 763-506-4257.

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  - October 1
  - October 29
  - December 3

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**IBEW Local Union 292**

**Minneapolis Electrical Workers**

**Continuing Education**

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

**Brotherhood**

The Local 292 Brotherhood Committee assists members in need or distress, either with a gift card from our Local 292 food shelf or teams of Brothers and Sisters helping around the house. If you need assistance or know of another member in need, call our Brotherhood line at 612-617-4247 or e-mail brotherhood@ibew292.org.

**Condolences**

Brother Steven T. Eyler; Brother Dean A. Hiller; Brother Curtis C. Hagfors; Brother Robert W. Lange; Brother Stephen R. Nixon.

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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www.minneapolisunions.org
IBEW Local 292 hosts first family picnic on grounds of new union hall in Brooklyn Park

BROOKLYN PARK — You couldn’t have wished for nicer weather Saturday, July 14 for the family picnic hosted by International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 292.

“It’s proof God loves union people,” said Local 292 business manager Jeff Heimerl. “It’s a beautiful day!”

IBEW Local 292 members and their families enjoyed brats, burgers, cole slaw and other picnic fare catered by union grocer Lunds & Byerlys, plus corn on the cob and ice cream.

For Local 292, it was the first year to host the union’s annual picnic at its new union hall located at 6700 W. Broadway Ave. in Brooklyn Park.

The grounds outside the hall were transformed into a scene not unlike a carnival, with a long row of white tents including a giant dining tent, face painters, lawn games, kids’ races, a giant inflatable slide, a bouncy house, and a very popular four-seat “Eurobungy Trampoline.”

Last summer, many local unions canceled their annual summer picnics due to the pandemic.

This year, many local unions — but not all — planned their summer picnics again, bringing members and their families together for one of summer’s fun traditions.

Seven Vreeland flies high at IBEW Local 292’s family picnic. His uncle is Sam Bergstrom, Minneapolis, 14-year Local 292 member who works for the University of Minnesota Electric Utilities.

Tosha Bergstrom (left), wife of Local 292 member Sam Bergstrom, with daughter Evelyn, age 4 (right).

Justin Grief, South St. Paul, seven-year member of Local 292 (left) and daughter Danielle, age 9 (right). Grief works for the Minneapolis Public Schools.

Zach Mulhern, Robbinsdale, three-year member of Local 292 (right), with wife Lauren Mulhern (left) and family. Mulhern works for the City of Minneapolis.

The picnic meal was catered by union grocer Lunds & Byerlys.