Unions decry Supreme Court ruling, urge action to protect abortion access

By Michael Moore, editor, Saint Paul Union Advocate

SAINT PAUL — Minnesota AFL-CIO president Bernie Burnham said in a public statement, calling the decision to overturn Roe v. Wade after nearly 50 years as the law of the land “a direct attack on working women and people who can get pregnant.”

“Reproductive rights are workers’ rights,” Minnesota AFL-CIO president Bernie Burnham said in a public statement, calling the decision to overturn Roe v. Wade after nearly 50 years as the law of the land “a direct attack on working women and people who can get pregnant.”

Research shows people denied abortion care face increased health, wellness and financial risks as a result. Burnham noted that, in the post-Roe landscape, those risks will disproportionally impact “low-income women, black, brown, non-binary and trans workers seeking care.”

Fortunately for working women and people who can get pregnant in Minnesota, our state Supreme Court has ruled our state constitution protects reproductive freedom and bodily autonomy,” Burnham added. “Minnesota’s unions are committed to protecting these freedoms and closing disparities through policies such as universal paid family and medical leave, affordable childcare, and creating more family-sustaining jobs.”

Leaders of several national unions, including the Service Employees (SEIU), Communications Workers of America, Office and Professional Employees (OPEIU) and American Federation of Teachers, issued similar statements in the hours following the June 24 ruling.

National AFL-CIO president Liz Shuler called the decision “a devastating blow to working women and families.”

“We strongly believe everyone should have control over their own bodies, including decisions over their personal reproductive health care,” Shuler added.

Some unions already have begun strategizing ways to use the collective bargaining process to ensure access to abortion care.

The Newsguild-CWA, which represents about 26,000 journalists and other workers in the U.S. and Canada, began holding meetings in May, after a draft of the Dobbs decision was leaked to Politico, moving quickly to “develop bargaining approaches that provide coverage for abortion care in collective bargaining agreements and to equip our membership with the tools to organize their coworkers to take action on this core labor issue.”

“Working people need access to safe, affordable abortion care just as we need quality health care,” Shuler added.

MRLF endorses Ray Zeran for Anoka County commissioner, Mary Supple for Richfield mayor — page 2

Primary election August 9

Early in-person voting now underway

MINNEAPOLIS — Tuesday, August 9 is primary election day in Minnesota. Polls will be open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Early voting already is underway. Voters may request an absentee ballot to vote by mail or may vote early in-person at county election offices.

For Hennepin County residents, early in-person voting is available at the Hennepin County Government Center, located in downtown Minneapolis at 300 6th St. South (skyway level). Hours will be 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through August 5, Monday-Friday. Saturday hours will be available from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Hours Monday, August 8 will be 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For voting information, or to learn your election day polling place: mnvotes.org.

In city of Minneapolis, AFL-CIO endorses three for School Board

At Large:
KerryJo Felder
Collin Beachy

District 5:
Lori Norvell

See page 8

Unions members share their valued hunting and fishing lives — See page 7

Union members share their valued hunting and fishing lives — See page 7
The road to AFL-CIO endorsement

By Chelsie Glaubitz Gabiou, President, Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation

While the November election seems far away, the hard work of political campaigns already is well underway. Successful campaigns for elected office include many factors. One factor in which our members play a critical role is the AFL-CIO endorsement.

The road to that AFL-CIO endorsement is robust. Here at the MRLF, we spend many months surveying workers and unions on issues and priorities. We develop a comprehensive set of values and standards. To win our AFL-CIO endorsement, candidates must demonstrate their commitment to our priorities.

Once our agenda is set for the year, together with our unions, we get to work engaging with candidates. For candidates already in office running for re-election, this process is a continuation of year-round education and partnership. For new candidates running for office, this process is a huge opportunity to help shape their perspectives around workers’ rights and workers’ issues.

While the MRLF does collect questionnaires (surveys on our issues) and conducts screening interviews with each candidate, the actual engagement goes much further. We are in touch with people in the communities that these candidates seek to represent. Important as the formal “process” may be, in our eyes, more critical is the actual work and partnerships that candidates have forged with workers in their communities.

We focus on four main areas when considering AFL-CIO endorsement: Policy issues, governance, community investment, and effectiveness.

For policy issues, we don’t expect every candidate to be an expert on all of labor’s issues. However, we do expect candidates to have basic knowledge of collective bargaining rights and some understanding of how they’ll work toward not just what’s important to the diverse workers in our communities.

Over the last several years, we have put more and more focus on how candidates will govern when in office. We want our endorsement to reflect a candidate’s willingness to advance our issues by boldly and effectively challenging how our government bodies do their work.

Our endorsement needs to go to candidates who are not just running for office, but who are working to change the political landscape through community investment. Candidates must embrace their constituents, build coalitions, and actively fight to protect our democracy. We expect elected AFL-CIO endorsed candidates to pro-actively engage with all parts of their communities, not just the loudest.

And finally, our endorsement goes to candidates who have the skills and ability to effectively advocate for workers. Candidates need to not only share our values, but also demonstrate how they will win their race or how their campaign will positively impact the broader political landscape, win or lose.

An AFL-CIO endorsement for any candidate represents a huge honor both for the candidate and for the unions who put in the work to get us to that point.

As you can see, the AFL-CIO endorsement is hard work for both the candidate and the workers involved in the process. Some endorsements are not easy and sometimes our unions are divided, but our endorsements are rooted in values and in a process that centers the long-term growth of workers’ rights.

To clarify: For local races, the endorsement voted by the delegate body of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation is the AFL-CIO endorsement. These local endorsements by the MRLF include races for city council, mayor, school board, park board, county commissioner, county sheriff and attorney, as well as school board seats.

For state and federal races, the delegate body of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation votes to recommend endorsements to the Minnesota AFL-CIO. The general board of the Minnesota AFL-CIO votes on the final AFL-CIO endorsement for races for Minnesota House, Minnesota Senate, Governor and other state wide offices, as well as for U.S. House and U.S. Senate.

To view the most up-to-date list of local and state AFL-CIO endorsements, visit minneapolisunions.org.

MINNEAPOLIS — Meeting via Zoom, delegates to the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation voted July 13 to endorse two union members for local office: Ray Zeran for Anoka County Commissioner, District 4, and Mary Supple for Richfield mayor.

The Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation’s endorsement is the AFL-CIO endorsement.

Delegates also voted to recommend the endorsement of two U.S. House incumbents: Third District U.S. Representative Dean Phillips and Fifth District U.S. Representative Ilhan Omar. These recommendations go to the board of the Minnesota AFL-CIO for final approval.

As the Labor Review went to press July 15, the Minnesota AFL-CIO’s general board was expected to consider the recommendations in the next few days.

Minneapolis Labor Review

Since 1907

Steve Share, Editor

AFL-CIO

Next issue: August 20, 2022

Labor Day Issue!

Deadline: August 3, 2022

See page 11 for complete 2022 schedule

“the rights labor has won, labor must fight to protect.”

—Floyd B. Olson, Minnesota Governor, 1930-1936

Editorial cartoon published in Minneapolis Labor Review April 7, 1922.

MRLF endorses Ray Zeran for Anoka County commissioner, Mary Supple for Richfield mayor

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The MRLF also recommended the endorsement of three candidates for state legislature: Carpenters union member Brian Raines for Minnesota House District 34A, Huldah Hiltsley for Minnesota Senate District 38, and Alice Mann for Senate District 50.

The Raines, Hiltsley and Mann recommendations also go to the Minnesota AFL-CIO for final approval.

Hiltsley faces a contest in the DFL primary August 9.

Anoka County Board District 4: Ray Zeran

A 20-year resident of Coon Rapids, MRLF-endorsed Ray Zeran is running to represent District 4 on the Anoka County Board.

An electrician by trade, Zeran is a 20-year member of IBEW Local 292. He founded and owns Raymond Electric.

MRLF ENDORSED page 8
July 28: Author and activist Joe Burns will discuss ‘Building Class Struggle Unionism’

MINNEAPOLIS — Author and activist Joe Burns will discuss “Building Class Struggle Unionism” at an event hosted by Minnesota Workers United, Thursday, July 28 beginning at 6:00 pm at the United Labor Centre, 312 Central Ave, SE (Rooms 217-218).

Workers create all wealth, in the view of class struggle unionism, and workers need unions willing to fight the bosses to reclaim wealth and power.


Burns is a veteran union negotiator and labor lawyer with more than 25 years experience negotiating labor agreements. He is currently the director of collective bargaining for the Association of Flight Attendants, CWA.

Burns graduated from the New York University School of Law.

Prior to law school he worked at the University of Minnesota Hospital and was president of his AFSCME local.

August 5: Event to celebrate life and legacy of Norm Moen, leader of 1970 teachers strike

MINNEAPOLIS — An event planned next month will celebrate the life and legacy of Norm Moen, leader of the transformative 1970 Minneapolis teachers strike. Moen died June 3 at the age of 90 (Labor Review, June 25, 2022).

The celebration of Norman A. Moen’s life, labor, and legacy will take place Friday, August 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers, 67 8th Ave. NE, Minneapolis.

A program will begin at 11:00 a.m.

The Committee of Thirteen and Retired Teachers Chapter 59 are teaming up with the Moen family to host the event.

Celebration guest speakers will include Minnesota State Representative and teacher Lyndon Carlson and former Minneapolis Public Schools superintendent Bill Green.

The Twin Cities Labor Chorus will perform.

Organizers of the memorial event invite people to share memories of Moen, including stories, memorabilia, and photos. Contact rtc59info@gmail.com.

In 1970, Moen was president of the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers and led teachers in going out on a 20-day strike — defying state law. The strike led the following year to the enactment of the Minnesota Public Employees Labor Relations Act, establishing collective bargaining rights for public employees — including teachers.

Moen later chaired the Committee of Thirteen to win protections to safeguard teacher pensions.

When Moen retired in 1998, a story in the Labor Review called him “one of the great leaders in Minnesota labor history.”

Donations in Moen’s memory may be sent to: Committee of Thirteen, P. O. Box 19181, Minneapolis, MN 55419-0191. Note “Norm Moen” in the memo line of your check.

July 30: East Side Freedom Library hosts Zoom event with workers organizing at Starbucks

SAINT PAUL — Workers at some 180-plus Starbucks coffeehouse locations nationwide have unionized in recent months, according to the website of Starbucks Workers United.

Learn more from workers at four Twin Cities area Starbucks who will be part of an online panel discussion hosted by the East Side Freedom Library, Saturday, July 30 from 1:00-2:30 p.m.

With the pandemic setting the stage, the local and national Starbucks organizing effort is part of the biggest union organizing drive in the past 50 years. Led by a new generation of workers, this drive is based in industries which were not part of the labor movement before.

The Starbucks Workers United website declares: “Starbucks is the leader in the coffee industry, and one of the most successful… companies in the world. We want to share in that success, and we want to have a voice in determining what that looks like for us… We are not anti-Starbucks. We are Starbucks!”

For more information, or to register for the free event which will be live on Zoom, visit eastsidefreedomlibrary.org.

DFS and Labor Endorsed

September 7, 2022
Majestic Oaks Golf Club
Ham Lake, MN
SAINT PAUL — Union members are invited to audition for the first annual “Minnesota AFL-CIO Union Members Have Talent” competition at this year’s Minnesota State Fair. Maybe you sing or play in a band, maybe you juggle chainsaws or have some other amazing talent that you would like to show off and win a prize.

You work hard every day at your union job to support your family and do the things that you love to do. But, we all know that union members have an unbelievable amount of talent outside of work.

Here are the contest rules:

1) By Friday, July 29, you must submit a video audition to the selection committee (made up of representatives of AFL-CIO entertainment unions). The video clip should be no longer than six minutes. The top six auditions will move on to the live showcase at the Minnesota State Fair Labor Pavilion planned Saturday, August 27 at 5:00 p.m. Contestants will be notified by Friday, August 5.

2) The contest is open to all amateur entertainers whose primary source of income does not come from this talent.

3) State Fair tickets will be supplied to talent contest participants.

4) Back-up music can be played with prior notice. You must supply a USB drive with music.

5) Contestants will be judged on quality of performance, stage presence and entertainment value.

6) All participants must perform the same routine or musical selection that was submitted in their audition video.

7) Live performances will have up to six minutes (this includes any spoken intros for your act). Points will be deducted for acts going over the allotted time. Acts are allowed to perform a medley of songs but you must remain under the six minute time limit.

8) Bonus point for including a union message or imagery as part of the act.

Register at aflcio.mn/talent2022. Questions? Contact Chris Shields at the Minnesota AFL-CIO at cshields@mnafcio.org.

SAINT PAUL — The 11th annual “Labor Bowl” coming Monday, August 15 to Sun Ray Lanes will benefit the Saint Paul Labor Studies and Resource Center (LSRC). The LSRC is the non-profit arm of the Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO and assists union members and their families.

People who wish to participate in the event are asked to form teams of four or five and choose a two-hour time slot. Shift times are 2:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m. Each bowler is asked to raise a minimum of $100 in pledges from fellow union members, family, friends or businesses.

To register and schedule a time to bowl, contact Laura at 651-222-3787 ext. 117 or lstort@stpaulunions.org by August 1.

September 7: Minneapolis Building Trades hosts Dollars Against Diabetes golf event

HAM LAKE — The Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades Council will host its 26th annual Dollars Against Diabetes Golf Tournament Wednesday, September 7 at the Majestic Oaks Country Club in Ham Lake.

Since 1995, the “DADs Day” event has raised more than $600,000 to benefit diabetes research and diabetes patients.

For the tournament, teams of four will compete in a best ball golf scramble. The registration fee is $200 per golfer or $800 per foursome and includes continental breakfast, 18 holes of golf with cart, awards banquet, steak dinner and two drinks.

Register by August 22 at https://forms.gle/ZVNAq6ed6gAek8SA6.
I recently attended a webinar about whether organized labor has a role to play in a post-Roe world — and if so, what that role should be. As we see from responses from state federations, individual unions and the national AFL-CIO itself, the answer is a resounding “yes!” Reproductive rights are workers’ rights; it’s that simple.

The principles that Labor routinely fights for apply to abortion rights. They include:

- The right to health care coverage, access to health care and paid sick leave. The ongoing pandemic has been a wake-up call for many of us: COVID is no joke, and even a “mild” infection can put you off work for days, with long-term effects lasting weeks or months. As anyone who’s been pregnant knows, it’s a major health event, and managing your own health at any point in pregnancy is a crucial right. If someone is pregnant and doesn’t want to be anymore, that is a right similar to ones Labor fights for.

- The right to bodily autonomy and safety on the job. One of the most important things being in a union can do for workers is give them the strength to say “no,” to say “that’s too dangerous,” to say “I don’t have the training, I’m not ready for this” — and for their union siblings to back them up. Unions can support this same principle outside the workplace as well, by having the courage to fight for the right for people to manage their reproductive lives as they see fit.

- The responsibility to support others besides ourselves in the community. We routinely take our union siblings’ word for it when they say they need help, such as people to march with them, donations for a strike fund, voices to speak about injustice. “An injury to one is an injury to all” is more than a slogan. The strength of the union movement lies in members’ willingness to help each other.

As such, we can extend that grace to people who are pregnant — to our fellow workers who want to carry a pregnancy to term and then have the paid time off they’ll need to recover and give the kid a strong start — and also to our fellow workers who find themselves pregnant and do not want to be.

During the webinar, participants from across the country talked about what their locals are planning on doing in the coming weeks and months around abortion access. Some talked about getting coverage for travel and costs in their contracts. Others were a little more cautious, unsure of where their leadership and employers might land on some proposals.

In any case, it’s clear through the conversations we had in the webinar that this is an area where Labor can use its power to make people’s lives better. The majority of adults in the United States believe at least some abortion access should be legal. This belief is not limited by state borders or by who’s sitting on the Supreme Court bench or in the Oval Office.

These are hard conversations — no one likes to get too close to messy topics like birth and death and deeply personal or intimate decisions. But we must. People know what they themselves need. And one of the strengths of the Labor movement is that when people talk about what they need, those who can help do so. People who can get pregnant are seeing rights being taken away. They need those rights restored — and the Labor movement can be an important partner in making that happen.

Catherine Conlan, editor of the Duluth Labor World newspaper, is a member of the Minnesota Newspaper and Communications Guild/TNG-CWA Local 37002.

Union reaction

continued from page 1

care generally, parental leave, childcare, and all other policies that help us support our families,” NewsGuild President Jon Schleuss said. “This is an issue that spans class, race and gender. And we should fight for it as such.” That fight will play out in the political arena, too, as several union leaders noted.

Education Minnesota, the statewide union of nearly 90,000 educators, issued a statement from its executive board calling on unions “to harness their collective power and fight for affordable health care for all, equal pay for equal work and paid family and medical leave so workers can care for themselves or loved ones without fear of losing a paycheck.”

“That’s why this fall’s election is so important,” the statement added. “Every Minnesotan needs to be a voter to elect candidates who will defend workers’ rights — including their right to health care and bodily autonomy. We can make it happen, but only if Minnesotans do it together.”

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Winners will be announced 9/9, 10/10 and 11/11
MINNEAPOLIS — Along with community partners, the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board presented a free festival June 19 at Bethune Park in celebration of Juneteenth. The People of Color Union Members (POCUM) caucus of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation helped to sponsor the event. This year marked the first year that Juneteenth officially was observed as a national holiday. Juneteenth celebrates the end of slavery in the United States, commemorating June 19, 1865 — the date when Union troops landed in Galveston, Texas and brought news that the Civil War had ended and that enslaved people were now free — two years after the Emancipation Proclamation. POCUM revived the Juneteenth festival in Minneapolis in 2018 by working with the Park Board to move the festival back into the heart of the community.

The banner from the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation’s People of Color Union Members (POCUM) was one of several union banners in the parade, which included marchers and banners from AFSCME Local 4001, Amalgamated Transit Union, and the Teamsters. A fire truck bearing the banner of the Minneapolis African American Professional Fire Fighters Association led the parade.

Edina Brown, member of Laborers Local 563, staffed the POCUM booth. Joining the union, she said, “saved my life... I found things I enjoy, like organizing, like political work. I enjoy being part of something that’s much bigger than me.”

Members of the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus, from IBEW Local 292, staffed a booth and passed out free backpacks for students. They also shared a flier showcasing Local 292 wages and benefits. “We try to be everywhere the people are at,” said Eddie Woodson. Left to right: Woodson, Jacory Shipp, Harlan Austin, Jamie Hawthorne.

A Civil War reenactor read the June 19, 1865 speech by General Gordon Granger bringing news of the Emancipation Proclamation to Texas: “All slaves are free!”
Fishing and hunting, union members enjoy outdoors, teach next generation

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

MINNEAPOLIS — For many union members, well-earned weekends and vacations bring the chance to spend time in the woods or on the water hunting or fishing — and to pass on the joys of those activities to the next generation.

Here are the stories of three union members: Mike Ganz, member of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 1, Dave Morin, member of Elevator Constructors Local 9, and Lizz Wilson, member of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 292.

Mike Ganz, BAC Local 1

“I’ve been doing hunting and fishing my entire life,” says Mike Ganz, Clear Lake, 33-year member of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 1.

Ganz, 54, grew up in Clear Lake, graduated from Becker High School, and “I pretty much went to work right out of high school,” he says.

His father, Lyman Ganz, was a member of Carpenters Local 930 in St. Cloud.

“A lot of neighbors were union,” Ganz adds. “I knew that was the right way to go.”

Although Ganz started out as a brick tender for a non-union contractor, he soon joined Bricklayers Local 1’s apprentice program. He worked in the field for 11 years and has worked for Local 1 for the past 22 years, currently serving as vice president.

He enjoys hunting at the family cabin near Blackduck. “Deer season with the family each year always is a good time,” he says.

Ganz and his wife Julie, married 32 years, have three grown children and three grandchildren. Son Jared is a member of Laborers Local 563 while son Jacob is a member of Glaziers Local 1324. Daughter Cassie is a veterinary technician.

Ganz says union work gives him an eight-hour day and time “to be able to help the community and do stuff.”

“I’ve done firearms training through the state of Minnesota for kids for almost 20 years,” Ganz says. He’s also been involved with a youth shooting league at Wild Marsh Sporting Clay in Clear Lake.

For the past seven years, Ganz also has helped organize “Get Youth Outdoors Day” at Wild Marsh as part of the outreach work of the Union Sportsmen’s Alliance (USA).

Of his volunteer work with youth, Ganz says, “it’s a great opportunity to be part of their growing up and instill something in them that will last a lifetime.”

Dave Morin, IUEC Local 9

“I never realized how good a union could be until I got into this one,” says Dave Morin, Oak Grove, who is now a 15-year member of International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 9 and serves on the executive board. He previously served Local 9 as president and as a trustee.

“I was an auto mechanic for nine years prior,” he relates. In that time, he says, “I only saw one person retire… It wasn’t a union shop. I felt like I needed to find a new trade.”

Morin, 40, is now 15 years into his career as a Local 9 member. He and his wife Becky have a son, age 10, and daughter, age 12. His work at Schindler Elevator allows the family to afford “a good life” on his income alone, he says, while Becky works the home front.

Morin spent his early growing-up years near International Falls, hunting and fishing. “My brother and I hunted pretty much every day after school and weekends,” he says.

His fishing event he organizes every summer on Lake Mille Lacs.

For more information about Game Fair, visit www.gamefair.com.

HUNTING AND FISHING page 11

Game Fair runs August 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21

Outdoor hunting and fishing expo offers hands-on activities

ANOKA — A favorite event for hunting and fishing enthusiasts, the 41st annual Game Fair will run Friday to Sunday, August 12-14 and Friday to Sunday, August 19-21, open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day.

Set amidst the rolling hills, woods and water of Armstrong Ranch in Anoka, Game Fair offers hands-on hunting and fishing experiences for all ages.

Vendors sell outdoor gear while conservation organizations offer information booths. A full schedule presents seminars and demonstrations.

Trick shooting exhibitions and hunting dog competitions are a staple of the event, drawing enthusiastic crowds.

Game Fair’s “Family Days” will be Friday, August 12 and Friday, August 21 — offering free admission for kids with a paid adult admission.

Adult admission is $14, $12 for age 62 and older, $10 for veterans, $5 for kids ages 6-14, free for kids 5 and under.

For more information about Game Fair, visit www.gamefair.com.
MINNEAPOLIS — Ryan Winkler is running for Hennepin County Attorney with the endorsement of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO and a long list of unions.

Longtime Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman is not seeking re-election, leaving an open seat.

AFL-CIO endorsed Ryan Winkler will face six other candidates in the August 9 primary election for Hennepin County Attorney.

Only the top two vote-getters in the non-partisan primary election will advance to the November 8 general election.

In the race for Hennepin County Attorney, Ryan Winkler is running on a platform centered around public safety, justice, and worker safety. AFL-CIO has endorsed him for his commitment to these issues and his experience in the field.

In primary election for Minneapolis School Board, Beachy, Felder, and Norvell run with AFL-CIO backing

COLLIN BEACHY

Minneapolis School Board At Large: Collin Beachy

“Both my parents were teachers. It’s what I always wanted to do,” says Collin Beachy.

AFL-CIO endorsed Collin Beachy, running for an At Large seat on the Minneapolis School Board, is an educator with 20 years of experience in the public schools including seven years working for Minneapolis Public Schools.

He currently works as a case manager at the Minneapolis Public Schools’ Transition Plus Services.

Beachy is a seven-year member of the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers.

“After George Floyd’s death and murder, like a lot of people, I was in a dark place for a time,” he says. He asked himself, “how could I have a bigger impact?”

“I want to make sure we have schools that are responsive to their communities — but we also need to have a common vision for Minneapolis,” Beachy says.

He adds: “We can’t cut and close schools on our way out of the problems. We’ve got to invest.”

Beachy also has been endorsed by the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers and SEIU Minnesota State Council.

For more information: beachy4schoolboard.com

KERRYJO FELDER

Minneapolis School Board At Large: KerryJo Felder

“We can change things. We can do things differently in our education system,” says KerryJo Felder. “You have to build schools people choose.”

AFL-CIO endorsed KerryJo Felder is seeking to reclaim a seat on the Minneapolis School Board, this time running At Large. Felder won election in 2016 to the District 2 seat but lost her re-election bid in 2020.

“I’m really excited to get in there — and listen to people,” Felder says. “I come in having more experience with the budget and how to move money around,” she says.

Felder has worked as an organizer for the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO since 2013. She is a member of Teamsters Local 120.

Prior to joining the MRLF staff, Felder was active in education issues and helped to organize a community campaign to save North High from closing.

She is a parent with students in the Minneapolis Public Schools.

Felder says “it’s important to put teachers back at the helm. They know what the students respond to.”

Felder also has been endorsed by the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers and SEIU Minnesota State Council.

For more information: kerryjo4schoolboard.com

LORI NORVELL

Minneapolis School Board District 5: Lori Norvell

“It’s really important we make sure our programs are stable for our students, our staff and our families,” says Lori Norvell. “We’ve got to stop this hemorrhaging of students, families, and staff.”

AFL-CIO endorsed Lori Norvell is running in a four-way primary to represent District 5 on the Minneapolis School Board.

Incumbent Nelson Inz is not running. District 5 is bordered by Interstate 35W on the west, 36th Street on the north and the city limits on the east and south.

Norvell is a Minneapolis Public Schools parent and school volunteer. She currently has one child enrolled in MPS while two other children are MPS graduates.

Norvell worked previously for the Minneapolis Public Schools as a special education assistant, substitute teacher, and for seven years as a middle school math teacher.

She is a former member of the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers.

Norvell currently works for the Hennepin Theatre Trust.

Norvell also has been endorsed by the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers and SEIU Minnesota State Council.

For more information: norvell4schoolboard.com

For more information:
raymondzeran.com

Richfield Mayor: Mary Supple

Currently an at large member of the Richfield City Council, MRLF-endorsed Mary Supple is running for Richfield mayor.

Incumbent mayor Maria Regan Gonzalez chose not to run for re-election.

Supple worked for 33 years for the Richfield Public Schools as a teacher, retiring in June 2021.

She was active in her union, Education Richfield, where over the years she served as president, government relations chair, and contract negotiator.

Prior to running for Richfield city council in 2018, Supple chaired the Richfield Housing and Redevelopment Authority and served as president of the Richfield Economic Development Authority.

She continued to serve in those roles over the past four years while also serving as Richfield city council member at large, representing the entire city.

For more information: marylsupple.com
AFSCME Council 5: Membership convention planned September 29 to October 1
AFSCME Council 5’s membership convention will convene Thursday, September 29 at 9:00 a.m. at the InterContinental Hotel in downtown St. Paul. The convention will continue through Saturday, October 1 until 12 noon, unless the business of the convention is completed sooner. The convention call will be sent out in mid-late July containing additional details. The convention call also will be posted online at afsccmem.org.

AFSCME Local 34: Summer barbecue coming July 30
Members of AFSCME Local 34 and their families are invited to a summer barbecue celebration with free food, live music, and prizes.
The event will be Saturday, July 30, from 12 noon to 4:00 p.m. at the West Shelter at Wolfe Park, 3700 Monterey Drive in St. Louis Park
Bring lawn chairs and blankets.

AFSCME Local 2822: Union leaders targeted, face retaliatory action by Hennepin County
In the wake of strike preparations earlier this year, outspoken leaders of AFSCME Local 2822 reportedly are being targeted by Hennepin County managers and have met with retaliatory action.

According to an online petition in support of the workers:

- “Irish Gauna, a single mother of five, fought for mothers and caregivers and was fired.”
- “Sue Olson, a 31-year employee, fought for equal treatment for support staff and got three weeks of unpaid leave.”
- “D.J. Hooker, a beloved community activist and associate librarian on the northside of Minneapolis, advocated for more workers of color and was accused of ‘reverse racism’ and issued a day without pay.”

Hooker later reported “they are setting me up for termination.”

The online petition called on Hennepin County Commissioners to reinstate Gauna with back pay and rescind Olson’s and Hooker’s suspensions with back pay.

The online petition also called for a halt to retaliatory action against union activists.

June 22 union leaders from AFSCME Local 2822, representing 1,300 clerical workers at Hennepin County, crashed the State of the County Address, demanding, “Stop retaliation against union activists now! End racism, sexism, ageism at work!”

Local 2822 is demanding that the County rescind the retaliatory actions against Gauna, Olson, and Hooker and make them whole with back pay.

The union also called on Hennepin County to fire two managers who implemented the retaliatory actions.

AFSCME Local 3937: U of M seeks to outsource jobs of workers at Disability Resource Center
A group of AFSCME Local 3937 members who work at the University of Minnesota’s Disability Resource Center (DRC) are pushing back against the University’s plan to outsource their jobs.

For 20 years, the workers have provide live-captioning for the University of Minnesota community.

However, captionist Sina Hanson reported, “the DRC has... announced its plan to lay off all seven of its unionized staff captionists in favor of outsourcing to sub-contracted vendors, all while adding a fifth associate director position to the DRC — at a college named as one of the nation’s most top-heavy universities.”

Hanson has worked for the last ten years as a captionist on the U of M’s Twin Cities campus.

“Staff captionists have long been a part of the University of Minnesota campus and culture and it shows in our work,” she said. “We know the U’s programs, the scope of its research, its partnerships, initiatives, and proud cultural traditions. We also understand the cultural context and history of disability at the U.”

“Our ability to work in any campus setting lets us get to know our captioning users and their unique needs and preferences. People with disabilities — our fellow University members — deserve that consistent, dedicated service,” Hanson said. “We have been there as they navigate accessibility barriers and have followed their lead in advocating for themselves to be able to fully participate in the University community.”

To sign the online petition in support of U of M captionists, visit: tinyurl.com/CaptioningPetition

ATU Local 1005: Motorcycle ride planned August 20
Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005 is planning a motorcycle ride to benefit the union’s hardship fund. The ride will be Saturday, August 20 from Stillwater, Minnesota to Pepin, Wisconsin. Contact the ATU office at 612-379-2914 for more information.

BCTGM Local 22: Members at UNFI-owned Cub Foods ratify contract
Members of BCTGM Local 22 have voted to ratify a new three-year contract with Cub Foods stores operated by United Natural Foods, Incorporated.

The agreement covers about 220 bakery workers at 43 Twin Cities area Cub Foods stores owned by UNFI.

In an announcement posted June 23 on Facebook, Local 22 reported that the new agreement includes “the best wage increases the members have received in over 30 years.”

Local 22 also reported, “the members will remain in the union health and welfare plan with minimal increases in costs to the members” — one of the key issues holding up a settlement.

In the resolution of another key issue over months of negotiations, Local 22 reported that the employer’s contribution to the union’s pension fund will continue “for a minimum of two more years with lucrative future 401(k) contribution payments.”

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Minneapolis Regional Retiree Council: Next meeting in September
The Minneapolis Regional Retiree Council, AFL-CIO is taking a break from its monthly meetings for July and August.

The next regular monthly meeting will be Thursday, September 15.

For more information about the Council, contact Graeme Allen, community and political organizer for the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, at 612-481-2144 or e-mail graeme@minneapolisunions.org.

ATU Local 1005 Retirees: Meet first Wednesday of the month
The Southside Retirees of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005 are now meeting for breakfast the first Wednesday of the month at 8:00 a.m. at the Richfield VFW, 6715 Lake Shore Drive South, Richfield.

IBEW Local 292 Retirees: ‘Senior Sparkies’ will meet August 9
The IBEW Local 292 Retirees — “Senior Sparkies” — will be meeting in-person Tuesday, August 9 at IBEW Local 292’s union hall, 6700 West Broadway Ave., Brooklyn Park.

Refreshments will be served at 12:00 noon.

The meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m.

We will have a guest speaker.

We’re planning a Retirees Summer Picnic for Thursday, August 11 at the Brooklyn Park union hall. The picnic social hour will begin at 11 a.m. A hot buffet lunch will be served at 12 noon.

Reservation information has been sent via U.S. Mail.

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

Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Chapter 59: Next meeting in September
The next meeting for Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Chapter 59 will be in September.

For more information, contact: RTC59info@gmail.com.

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

Plumbers Local 15 Retirees: Meet the third Tuesday of each month
All retired Plumbers Local 15 members are invited to attend retiree meetings, continuing the third Tuesday of every month at 12 noon at Elsie’s Restaurant, Bar & Bowling

Center, 729 Marshall St. NE, Minneapolis (corner of Marshall and 8th Ave.). For more information, contact the Local 15 office at 612-333-8601.

Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 Retirees: ‘Rusty Timmers’ take summer break
The Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 “Rusty Timmers” retirees club will be taking a summer break with no meetings planned for June, July or August. Meetings normally take place the second Tuesday of each 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!

If your union retiree group wishes to share your regular meeting information or special announcements, contact the editor at laborreview@minneapolisunions.org or 612-715-2667.
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mitments from the company.”

The union reported the new agreement includes improved bereavement leave as well as other gains.

In March of this year, Local 22 members leafleted for several days outside UNFI-owned Cub Foods stores to alert shoppers that the company wasn’t offering a fair contract.

In announcing members’ vote to ratify the new contract, Local 22 added, “thank you to all who supported our members during almost 10 months of bargaining and over 22 bargaining dates!”

BCTGM Local 22: Members at Form-A-Feed ratify one-year contract, end strike

After 10 days on strike, BCTGM Local 22 members who work at the Form-A-Feed plant in New Richmond, Wisconsin ratified a one-year contract offer and returned to work.

Local 22 reported June 24 on Facebook that the agreement includes “the best wage increase at the mill in over 40 years,” increased contributions to the workers’ 401(k) plan, and a ratification bonus.

The agreement covers nine workers at the plant, which produces animal feed.

City Employees Local 363: Members elect new leadership

Members of City Employees Local 363 voted June 15 to elect new leadership.

The “Workers Voice” slate of candidates, led by business manager candidate AJ Lange, won all positions “by a very significant margin,” Lange reported.

Monica Smith, elected as Local 363 president, is the first Black woman to be elected president of the local, Lange noted.

She works for Minneapolis Public Works.

Other officers elected included: Bruce Smith, vice president, from Minneapolis Public Works; Caitlin Brunette, recording secretary, from the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation department; Brady Sinn, secretary-treasurer, also from the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Department.

An arbitor for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, newly-elected business manager Lange is a seven-year member of Local 363 and previously served the union as a steward. He also served on the executive board for the past three years.

Lange, Saint Paul, is a fourth-generation union advocate. A great-grandfather was a Farmer-Labor Party activist on the Iron Range, Lange reported, while a grandfather was a union steward in a railroad union and his father was a union airline pilot.

Lange said he ran for business manager of Local 363 with widespread encouragement from other members, although initially “I was pretty reluctant,” he disclosed.

In putting together the “Workers Voice” slate, he said, the idea was to make sure we had all the different employers and divisions represented.”

Lange said Local 363’s new leadership wants to create “more opportunities for members to have a say and get involved and take ownership, not just have an expectation that the union is something separate.”

Local 363 is part of the Laborers International Union of North America and represents nine public sector bargaining units in the Twin Cities area, with about 900 full-share members.

Local 363 currently is in negotiations with the Minneapolis Park Board, where the bargaining unit includes about 200 full-share members. “Our hope is to leverage the power of the group to have opportunities for collective action around the contract,” Lange said. “We’re going to fight the bosses wherever we can.”

CWA Local 7250: Workers at DIRECTV call centers wage three-state contract campaign

As the Labor Review went to press July 15, workers at DIRECTV call centers in Minnesota, Colorado and West Virginia were planning a day of informational picketing July 20 at all three locations.

Together, the three call centers employ about 600 workers, including about 20 customer service representatives working out of the Minnesota DIRECTV call center in Eden Prairie.

The workers — members of the Communications Workers of America — are working under a contract that expired in February 2022 and are represented by CWA Local 7250 in Minnesota, CWA Local 7750 in Colorado, and CWA Local 2009 in West Virginia.

Negotiations began in January — over Zoom, reported Ann Jensen, CWA Local 7250 area vice president who has worked at the Eden Prairie call center for 20 years and is one of the lead negotiators.

She said health care costs and wages are workers’ top concerns.

“We had a one-year contract extension during COVID,” Jensen said. “It’s time we got some raises, some fair healthcare costs, so we can actually take care of our families.”

Work-from-home issues are another concern. Jensen said, with about one-half of call center workers working from home due to the ongoing pandemic. “The company is not reimbursing any of their internet costs,” she noted, adding “it’s like the company is renting a portion of their home for free.”

The workers are working under a temporary work-from-home agreement and seek a permanent agreement, Jensen said.

The current negotiations are the first to take place since AT&T, which formerly owned DIRECTV outright, spun-off the company in a $67 billion dollar deal completed in August 2021.

According to the Hollywood Reporter, AT&T still owns 70 percent of DIRECTV while private equity firm TPG owns 30 percent.

DIRECTV offers customers a variety of multi-channel entertainment packages including movies and sports programs.

IBEW Local 292: Family picnic planned August 13

International Brotherhood of Electricians Local 292 invites members and their families to the union’s family picnic, planned for Saturday, August 13.

The event will take place from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. outside Local 292’s new union hall at 6700 West Broadway Avenue in Brooklyn Park.

Food will be served and activities for all ages are planned. Feel free to bring chairs and picnic blankets.

No pre-registration is required.

Overflow parking will be available at Metro Transit’s 63rd Avenue “Park & Ride” lot located at 7000 63rd Avenue North, with a free shuttle provided to and from the IBEW Local 292 hall.

Contact the office for more information at 612-379-1292 or office@ibew292.org.

Laborers District Council: Family picnic planned August 20

LiUNA Minnesota & North Dakota invites Laborers union members and their families to this year’s Family Fun-Raiser Picnic at Como Park, 1199 Midway Parkway, St. Paul. The event will be Saturday, August 20, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The picnic will include a free hot dog lunch with sweet corn and ice cream. All events are free with a charitable donation to benefit Minnesota Laborers Charities. For more information, visit mnleceot.org.

Plumbers Local 15: Family picnic planned August 13

The annual family picnic for Plumbers Local 15 is set for Saturday, August 13, from 12 noon to 3:00 p.m. at Elm Creek Park Reserve, 12400 James Deane Parkway, Maple Grove. For more information, contact the hall at 612-333-8601.

Sources: Local unions, Labor Review reporting. Next deadline: August 3.
Hunting and fishing: Passing it on

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all summer long,” he says. “We didn’t have a boat. We just fished from shore.”

His family later moved to Blaine, where he graduated from high school and then completed a two-year auto mechanic program at Hennepin Technical College.

Now Morin’s own kids get a taste of Northwoods life at the family cabin near Iron River, Wisconsin. “Every week we go up there. I’ve slowly been introducing them to shooting guns safely, trying to do little bits at a time so they don’t get discouraged.”

In the winters, Morin has a permanent ice shack on Lake Mille Lacs and spends weekends ice-fishing there: “I like fishing for walleye. Sometimes they can be difficult. I feel an accomplishment when I catch one. They’re fun to catch. They fight well.” He adds: “I’m always chasing the fish over 30 inches.” But, he notes, “29-1/2 is the biggest I’ve caught.”

Morin’s interest in ice-fishing led him to organize a new program for Union Sportsmen’s Alliance: “Take Kids Ice Fishing Day.”

Morin had entered a contest and won a USA-sponsored white-tailed hunt in Kentucky. “I was super thankful,” he said. “I thought, how could I help USA?”

He knew USA sponsored youth fishing events — but not ice fishing. “Take Kids Ice Fishing Day” in Minnesota now has been running four years and has attracted numerous sponsors and volunteers. “I usually have about 75 kids that show up,” Morin says. “A lot of the kids have never ice-fished.”

“I’ve had a few families that I’ve taken out after the event,” he continues. “Some are really into it now and have bought their own equipment.”

“When I got involved in the Union Sportsmen’s Alliance, it seemed there was a lot bigger community than I thought,” Morin says. “They all have the same passion I do — to get outdoors.”

Lizz Wilson, IBEW Local 292

“I just like fishing,” says Lizz Wilson. “I love the outdoors. I love the fresh air, the peace of it all.”

Wilson, Minneapolis, is a nearly 22-year member of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 292.

Now 55, she entered the trade almost by chance. “I was working as a security guard at a new construction site… checking people into the building,” she says. “Trade members would come in and I asked people what did they do. I asked, is that something I could do?” Someone encouraged her to go the hiring hall. “And that’s what I did,” she reports.

“When I started, I liked the opportunity of growth financially,” she says. “I was a single parent. I liked knowing I could take care of my son” [who is now 28]. She especially liked the medical benefits. However, she notes, “it was a challenge for me being a black woman. I worked hard. I always had to work… nearly three times as hard as the men.”

Wilson grew up in Gary, Indiana and earned a degree in mass communications from what is now Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri.

She moved to Minneapolis in 1999, following her three older brothers, who had moved here a few years earlier.

As a member of IBEW Local 292, Wilson is involved with the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus. “You get to hear other people’s stories,” she says, and learn your issues are common issues. She also enjoys the community service work of the group. “It’s nice to be able to help others,” she says.

“I love fishing out at Lake Minnetonka,” Wilson says. “I have two neighbors, elder men in my building, we go pretty regularly in the summertime. They don’t get out of the building much. I take them with me. We fish off shore or off a fishing dock.”

Wilson, who started fishing at age 24, says, “I would take my son fishing, my nephews… I would take them fishing all the time… It’s a peaceful environment.”
Minneapolis — Going in to the top of the ninth inning at Target Field June 22, the Minnesota Twins were up 10-7 over the visiting Cleveland Guardians. Neither team had scored in the eighth inning. But Cleveland scored four runs in the bottom of the ninth inning and won the game 11-10.

About 1,000 Building Trades union members, friends and family members were on-hand for the game as part of the annual “Trade Night at Target Field,” sponsored by the Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades Council.

A pre-game picnic at the Minneapolis Farmers Market preceded the ballgame. The picnic was the first in two years — the welcome return of an annual tradition interrupted by the pandemic. “It’s good to be back,” said Dan McConnell, business manager for the Council.

Marissa Goodsky, seven-year member of Cement Masons Local 633, attended with wife Erica and children Aaron, Isaac, and Matias.

Goodsky began her career in the Trades as a participant in Local 633’s summer training program, offered in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, which introduces young workers from area tribal nations to careers in the concrete and cement industry. Goodsky recently began working as an instructor for that very same program.

Goodsky, North St. Paul, is a member of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa.

She recently was honored by Women Building Success with its “Journey Worker of the Year” award.

Marissa Goodsky, Cement Masons Local 633 member and instructor, throws out first pitch