Legislative session brings historic wins for workers

SAINT PAUL — As the Labor Review went to press May 19, the 2023 session of the Minnesota legislature was just three days away from its scheduled adjournment date.

Some outcomes remained unknown at press time.

But pro-worker bills already signed — or headed to Governor Tim Walz for a signature — add up to making the 2023 session one bringing historic gains for workers.

The 2023 legislative results show that elections do matter. The labor-friendly majorities in the Minnesota House and Senate won in 2022, together with Governor Tim Walz, will have succeeded in passing many of labor’s long-sought policy objectives, along with funding for education, housing and other priorities.

The era of gridlock is over. See more, pages 10-11.

U of M graduate student workers vote overwhelmingly to unionize

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

MINNEAPOLIS — Joining a wave of union organizing by graduate student workers across the country, graduate students who teach classes and conduct research at the University of Minnesota voted overwhelmingly to organize in an election conducted by the Minnesota Bureau of Mediation Services.

The official tally, certified April 28, was 2,487 voting yes and 70 voting no — that’s more than 97 percent voting yes.

The new University of Minnesota Graduate Labor Union is affiliated with the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE).

The new bargaining unit will represent more than 4,100 graduate student workers.

More than 61 percent of eligible workers voted in the election, reported graduate student worker Rachel Bergman, discussing the organizing win at the May 10 delegate meeting of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

“We’re excited to join the other unions on campus with the Teamsters and AFSCME Local 3800 and to just join the great labor movement that’s here in the Twin Cities,” Bergman said.

This was the sixth time that graduate student workers have voted in a union election over the years — but each previous vote was a lopsided “no” vote.

“In the last year, so many graduate unions have formed so I think that was really helpful momentum for us and kept us going and other priorities.

GRADUATE UNION page 8

Bricklayers apprentice contest tests skills

— see page 13

Colton Weckwerth, third year Bricklayer apprentice, using his level to level the course of brick he’s laid.

New documentary on state’s Farmer-Labor movement will air on public television

A new documentary, “The Farmer-Labor Movement: A Minnesota Story,” will be broadcast by all the state’s PBS stations in June, including TPT Channel 2.2 in the metro area. Broadcast times will be Sunday, June 18 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, June 25 at 1:00 a.m., 7:00 a.m., and 1:00 p.m. See page 8.
Building solidarity, organizing and growing, telling workers' stories

By Chelsie Glaubitz Gabiou, President, Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation

I am excited to share that the board, staff and affiliates of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO have wrapped up a two-year strategic planning process. We heard four key themes from all corners of the labor movement to prioritize: growing our strength, building solidarity, telling our story and preparing for the future.

We came away from our conversations reinforcing the belief that a strong and thriving MRLF is an important tool for the region’s union ecosystem — to build solidarity, to organize and grow together and to tell the story of workers. Together, the combined efforts of the local labor movement helps all unions to win strong contracts and to raise standards for all workers.

Over the past decade, through immense challenges and upheavals, it has been proven over and over again that when our unions work together we all are stronger.

Now, we as a labor federation are prepared to move the hard work of the labor movement to prioritize:

- A New Definition of Progress,
- Frontiers in History: People, Places, Ideas.
- The rights labor has won, labor must fight to protect.
- Labor history, and this year a team of labor history judges awarded eight cash prizes of $100 each to eight student projects.

The labor history prize sponsors include the state’s three labor newspapers — the Minneapolis Labor Review, the Saint Paul Union Advocate, and the Duluth Labor World — plus the University of Minnesota’s Labor Education Service.

Senior Division projects winning this year’s labor history prizes included:

- Individual Website, “Pulling Back The Curtain: Eva Valesh And The Impact of Female Undercover Journalism,” by Sylvia Mcroberts, Murray Middle School, Saint Paul.

A strong and thriving MRLF is an important tool for the region’s unions to grow together

MINNEAPOLIS — Each year, hundreds of Minnesota junior high and senior high students participate in the state’s annual History Day competition, choosing a topic, conducting research, and then presenting their findings via an exhibit, documentary film, live performance, website, or research paper.

Top winners selected by judges advance to the National History Day competition in the Washington, D.C. area.

This year’s History Day theme: “Frontiers in History: People, Places, Ideas.”

But students in the state competition also are eligible to win prizes for projects touching on a range of topics, including labor history, and this year a team of labor history judges awarded eight cash prizes of $100 each to eight student projects.

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Students win prizes for labor history projects at Minnesota History Day state competition


Welcome, new Minneapolis Labor Review readers!

As a member of a union affiliated with the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, you now are receiving a subscription to the monthly Minneapolis Labor Review. Several affiliates recently have updated their mailing lists. For subscriber service, see page 19.

Minneapolis Labor Review
Since 1907
Steve Share, Editor
AFL-CIO
Next issue: July 22, 2023
Deadline: July 5, 2023
See page 19 for complete 2023 schedule

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

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May 29: Memorial Day event planned at Richfield’s Honoring All Veterans Memorial

RICHFIELD — The Honoring All Veterans Memorial will host a Memorial Day observance Monday, May 29 at 2:00 p.m., rain or shine.
The Honoring All Veterans Memorial site is located at 6429 Portland Ave. in Richfield.
The event will feature guest speakers and a T-6 Thunder flyover.

The Memorial includes a statue of the late Charles W. Lindberg, a member of IBEW Local 292 who served in the U.S. Marine Corps in World War II and was one of the first flag-raisers at Iwo Jima.
The event is free and open to the public.
For more information, call 612-861-9395.

June 3: East Side Freedom Library to host 10-year anniversary gala honoring founders

SAINT PAUL — The East Side Freedom Library will host a 10-year anniversary gala honoring co-founders Peter Rachleff and Beth Cleary.
The event will be Saturday, June 3 at 5:00 p.m. at the East Side Freedom Library, 1105 Greenbrier Street, Saint Paul.
The evening’s featured speaker will be Kao Kalia Yang, award-winning author and founding ESFL board member.
A catered dinner will be provided by Chef Yia Yang, James Beard finalist and owner of Union Hmong Kitchen.
Rachleff and Cleary, Macalester College professors, founded the nonprofit East Side Freedom Library in the historic Arlington Hills library and until recently served as ESFL’s co-executive directors.
In the course of nine years, ESFL has gathered a collection of 38,000 books focused on the history of labor, immigration, and social justice causes.
ESFL also has hosted a full calendar of speakers and panel discussions exploring those topics.
In addition, ESFL has hosted numerous community-building events including labor solidarity picnics.
For more information, or tickets for the gala, visit eastsidefreedomlibrary.org.

June 8: Union Job and Resource Fair will include on-site interviews with employers

SAINT PAUL — The seventh annual Union Job and Resource Fair organized by the Eastside Freedom Library has been rescheduled to Thursday, June 8 and will run from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
The event takes place at the IBEW Local 110 union hall, 1330 Conway Street in Saint Paul.
The goal is to provide information about pathways to union careers and to connect individuals with potential employers. Job applications and on-site job interviews will be available.

A partial list of participating employers includes: Minnesota Department of Transportation, City of Saint Paul, City of Saint Paul Department of Public Works, Saint Paul Public Schools, Bimbo Bakeries, Old Dutch Foods, and others.
The Union Job and Resource Fair originally was planned for May 24 but was rescheduled to June 8.
Call 651-207-4926 or e-mail info@eastsidefreedomlibrary.org for more information.

June 14: Golf tournament at Majestic Oaks will benefit Injured Apprentice Fund

HAM LAKE — The Minnesota Apprenticeship Coordinators Association’s golf tournament to benefit its Injured Apprentice Fund is coming Wednesday, June 14. The tournament will take place at Majestic Oaks Golf Club, 701 Bunker Lane Blvd. in Ham Lake.
Lunch will be available from 11:00 a.m. to 12 noon, with a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m., followed by dinner, awards and doorprizes beginning at 5:30 p.m.
The cost is $150 per person and includes lunch, 18 holes of golf, cart, driving range, contests, and dinner.
Make checks payable to “MN Coordinators Association” and mail to Minneapolis Electrical JAC, 13100 Frankfort Parkway NE, St. Michael, MN 55376.
For more information, contact Derrick Atkins at datkins@mplsjatc.org.
Fare For All offers savings of 40 percent on groceries at monthly community pop-up sales

Advance — just stop in to shop!

Here is the schedule for June and July for Fare For All’s sites in the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation’s seven-county region, listed alphabetically by city:

- **Anoka**, Thursdays, June 22, July 27, 4:00-6:00 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1601 S. 4th Ave.
- **Blaine**, Thursday, June 15, July 13, 3:00-5:00 p.m., Christ Lutheran Church, 641 89th Ave. NE.
- **Bloomington**, Friday, June 16, July 21, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Ave. So.

For more information, contact chelsie@minneapolisunions.org.

June 17: Join Juneteenth parade and festival with MRLF’s People of Color Union Members

MINNEAPOLIS — The People of Color Union Members caucus of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO welcomes union members and their families to join together at this year’s Juneteenth celebration, planned for Saturday, June 17 from noon to 6:00 p.m. at Bethune Park, 1304 N. 10th Ave. in Minneapolis.

The Juneteenth festival will feature music, food, and information booths.

Union members and their families also are invited to wear their union colors and march with their union banners with POCUM members in a Juneteenth parade to kick-off the day.

The parade will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Minneapolis Public Schools’ Davis Center, 1250 West Broadway Ave. and proceed to Bethune Park.

For more parade information, contact chelsie@minneapolisunions.org.

June 20: Annual Trades Night at Target Field features pre-game picnic, Twins vs. Red Sox

MINNEAPOLIS — This year’s annual Trades Night at Target Field is set for Tuesday, June 20 and will feature the Minnesota Twins facing the Boston Red Sox. Game time is 6:40 p.m.

Prior to the game, the Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades Council will host a pre-game picnic for union building trades members and their guests from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Minneapolis Farmers Market, 312 East Lyndale Ave. North.

A free shuttle bus will provide rides from the Farmers Market to Target Field and back.

Ticket costs: $45 Field Box, $25 HR Deck, $53 Legends Landing.

For tickets, contact your local union or Luis Breazeale at 612-659-3575 or luisbreazeale@twins.com.

June 25: Join in annual Pride March with Minnesota AFL-CIO and wear union colors

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota AFL-CIO invites union members and their families to walk together in the 2023 Twin Cities LGBTQ+ Pride March, planned Sunday, June 25 beginning at 11:00 a.m. The start of the march will be at 77 S. 7th St. in downtown Minneapolis with the Minnesota AFL-CIO line-up spot to be announced.

The march comes on the last day of the June 23-25 Pride festival taking place at Loring Park.

Fare For All offers savings of 40 percent on groceries at monthly community pop-up sales

MINNEAPOLIS — Stretch your grocery dollars by visiting a community location for a Fare For All pop-up food sale, which offers discounted grocery packages.

Fare For All offers a savings of 40 percent on grocery items.

Fare For All’s regular offerings include a produce pack for $10, a mini meat pack for $11, a combo produce and mini meat pack for $20, a mega meat pack for $25. Other monthly specials also are available.

Fare For All is open to everyone and has no income requirements.

Cash, credit cards, debit cards, and EBT cards are accepted. Checks are not accepted. No need to call or register in advance — just stop in to shop!

Here is the schedule for June and July for Fare For All’s sites in the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation’s seven-county region, listed alphabetically by city:

- **Anoka**, Thursdays, June 22, July 27, 4:00-6:00 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1601 S. 4th Ave.
- **Blaine**, Thursday, June 15, July 13, 3:00-5:00 p.m., Christ Lutheran Church, 641 89th Ave. NE.
- **Bloomington**, Friday, June 16, July 21, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Ave. So.

FARE FOR ALL page 7
SAINT PAUL — Unions in the Twin Cities and across the U.S. hosted ceremonies April 28, on Workers Memorial Day, to honor those who died in the previous year due to work-related injuries or illnesses, and to rededicate their organizations to the cause of workplace safety.

At the Workers Memorial Garden on the Minnesota State Capitol grounds, Governor Tim Walz and state Labor Commissioner Nicole Blissenbach paid their respects to seven local union tradespeople who lost their lives in the last year due to construction accidents or illnesses acquired in the field.

“There’s about 5.8 million Minnesotans that aren’t here, and every single one of them knows how important this work is,” Walz said during the rain-soaked ceremony, organized by the Building Trades councils of St. Paul and Minneapolis. “And one of the few things that unify us is that we need to do everything possible to protect workers who are putting themselves out there.”

Family members or fellow union members held a white cross for each fallen worker honored at the ceremony. A bell tolled as Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council president Dan McConnell read each name, and secretary-treasurer Don Mullin draped a black sash over each cross.

“As each of the names of seven trades members who were honored were read, Don Mullin draped a sash over a cross held by a family member or fellow union member. Dan McConnell read each name, and secretary-treasurer Don Mullin draped a black sash over each cross.

“Today we gather to remember seven fallen brothers, and to rededicate ourselves to the core mission of our unions, to advocate for our members’ safety and well-being.” McConnell said. “I’m sure you’ll agree with me that the seven brothers we honor today are too many, and our work is far from done.”

The seven union members honored at the ceremony included:
- Robert Michael Alcure, member of Carpenters Local 322, who died from a worksite fall.
- Peter Davis, member of Laborers Local 563, who died in a worksite accident.
- Kent Lursen, member of Sheet Metal Workers Local 10, who died in a worksite accident.
- Roger Peterson, Heat and Frost Insulators Local 34 retiree, who died of asbestosis.
- Arthur Stephen, member of Laborers Local 563, who died in a motor-vehicle accident on his way to the job site.
- Terry Westemeier, member of Operating Engineers Local 49, who died in a worksite accident.
- Brad Wojtysiak, member of Operating Engineers Local 49, who died in a worksite accident.

“Look to the horizon — north, south, east and west,” Saint Paul Building Trades president Dean Gale said during a prayer to open the ceremony. “What is it we see? We see the buildings, the roads, the bridges, the infrastructure built by skilled craftsmen.”

“The heart and soul of our brothers and sisters went into these buildings, and we must not take that for granted,” Gale said.
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Job safety: 5,190 workers killed on the job

continued from page 5

said.

Report: Work-related deaths rising

An analysis of workplace safety data from 2021, issued by the AFL-CIO earlier this year, uncovered a troubling rise in worker deaths, particularly among Black and Latino workers. The report, “Death on the Job: The Toll of Neglect,” found that 5,190 U.S. workers were killed on the job that year, and an estimated 120,000 more died from occupational diseases.

The overall job fatality rate increased to 3.6 per 100,000 workers. It was higher for Black (4.0) and Latino (4.5) workers. “It is unconscionable that in the wealthiest nation in the world, Black and Latino workers are facing the highest on-the-job fatality rates in nearly two decades,” AFL-CIO president Liz Shuler said. “This report is more than a wake-up call, it is a call to action. No one should have to risk their lives for their livelihoods.”

Shuler and other labor leaders called on lawmakers to increase funding for OSHA, noting that the federal agency currently has enough resources to inspect every workplace once every 190 years.

Even when including state agencies like Minnesota OSHA, there are just 1,871 inspectors — 900 at the federal level and 971 at the state — to safeguard workers at more than 10.8 million workplaces.

Minnesota saw 80 workplace fatalities in 2021, a rate of 2.8 deaths per 100,000 workers. The construction industry saw the highest number of fatalities, with 17.

Blissenbach, whose agency is charged with oversight of workplace health and safety in Minnesota, said every death on the job is tragic, in part, because it was preventable.

“On this Workers Memorial Day, my pledge to you is that the department will continue to work towards a day when we can gather here, reflect on our work and not read the name of a single worker,” she said. “So let’s work together and do all we can do to make sure every worker gets the protections they need and deserve.”

Labor history prizes: eight projects awarded

continued from page 2

Sunrise Park Middle School, White Bear Lake:


This year’s labor history judges included: Steve Brandt, Minnesota Newspaper Guild retiree; Jean Baudhuin, Laborers Local 563 member; Catherine Conlan, Duluth Labor World editor; Nile Mills, OPEIU Local 12 member; Theresa St. Aoro from MAPE and the St. Paul Regional Labor Federation; Steve Share, Minneapolis Labor Review editor; John See from the University of Minnesota Labor Education Service.

The 2023-2024 school year will bring National History Day’s 50th anniversary. The 2024 theme will be “Turning Points in History.”

Fare for All: June and July sale dates listed

continued from page 4

■ Buffalo, Tuesday, June 6, July 11, 4:00–6:00 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1200 Highway 25 South.

■ Chaska, Thursday, June 22, July 27, 4:00–6:00 p.m., Crown of Glory Lutheran Church, 1141 Cardinal St.

■ Fridley, Friday, June 23, July 28, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon, Fridley Community Center, 6085 7th Street NE.

■ Golden Valley, Friday, June 23, July 28, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Animal Humane Society, 845 Meadow Lane N.

■ Hutchinson, Thursday, June 8, July 13, 3:30–5:30 p.m., Oak Heights Church, 1398 South Grade Road SW.

■ Minneapolis, Friday, June 9, July 14, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Laborers Local 563 union hall, 901 14th Ave. NE (one-half block west of Central Ave. on 14th Ave. NE).

■ New Hope, Wednesday, June 14, July 19, 3:00–5:00 p.m., St. Joseph Parish Center, 8701 36th Ave. N.

■ Norwood Young America, Thursday, June 1, no July date, 3:00–5:00 p.m., All Saints Lutheran Church, 511 Merger St.

■ Richfield, Tuesday, June 20, July 25, 1:00–3:00 p.m., Richfield Community Center, 7000 Nicollet Ave. So.

■ St. Louis Park, Wednesday, June 14, July 19, 4:00–6:00 p.m., Vista Lutheran Church, 4003 Wooddale Ave. So.

The Fare For All sale at the Laborers Hall in northeast Minneapolis is hosted by Working Partnerships, the community services arm of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

See www.fareforall.org for more information and dates for all 30-plus locations.
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New documentary on state’s Farmer-Labor movement will air on public television

MINNEAPOLIS — Seven years in the making, a new documentary about Minnesota’s Farmer-Labor movement of the 1920s and 1930s will air on public television stations statewide in June.

“The Farmer-Labor Movement: A Minnesota Story” (USA, 2022, 56 minutes) resulted from a collaboration between filmmaker Randy Croce and historians Tom O’Connell and Anna Kuharjec.

Broadcast times, including TPT Channel 2.2 in the metro area, will be Sunday, June 18 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, June 25 at 1:00 a.m., 7:00 a.m., and 1:00 p.m.

The film makes a point to connect the issues faced by farmers and workers who came together in the Farmer-Labor movement in the 1920s and 1930s with the issues of today (Labor Review, October 22, 2022).

The Farmer-Labor movement produced the Farmer-Labor Party, which became the dominant political party in the state in the 1930s and elected Minnesota governors and U.S. Senators, as well as U.S. Representatives, state legislators, and local officials. In 1944, the Farmer-Labor Party merged with the state’s Democratic Party to form the DFL Party.

The film recently received an award from the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums. “It says it’s an important contribution to Minnesota history recognized by our peers,” said Croce, who worked 28 years for the University of Minnesota’s Labor Education Service.

To view a trailer of the film, visit farmerlaboreducation.com/documentary.

Graduate union: More than 4,000 workers in unit

continued from page 1

energized.”

Bergman said the organizers of the Minnesota graduate student union campaign spoke with other campus organizers at MIT, Johns Hopkins, Princeton, and Dartmouth. “We had people who could show us the ropes and give us guidance.”

“This has been a campaign that’s been going on for three years at this point,” Bergman said. “A lot of relationships were built and nurtured.”

One difference from previous graduate student organizing campaigns at the U, she said, was better relationship-building with graduate students in the STEM departments (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) and with international students.

The graduate students organizing campaign advocated for a platform including:

- Higher pay and lower fees;
- Comprehensive benefits;
- Transparency and security on the job;
- Anti-discrimination, anti-harassment, and employment grievance procedures,
- Increased support for international graduate workers;
- Justice for Minnesota communities.

“We strive to improve conditions for graduate workers, all University workers, and people across Minnesota,” the platform reads.

Bergman told MRLF delegates that the University of Minnesota Graduate Labor Union will begin to form a bargaining committee over the summer.

For more information: umnglu.org

COVID public health emergency ends


“Thanks to the Biden-Harris Administration’s whole-of-government approach to combating COVID-19, our country is in a better place than at any point during the pandemic,” the statement read. “…We’re prepared and ready to manage the risks of the virus moving forward. The PHE is ending, but COVID-19 remains a public health priority, and our work to protect the American public will continue.”

The World Health Organization May 5 declared an end to the global public health emergency in place since January 30, 2020.
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22 LOCATIONS IN MINNESOTA
Minnesota lawmakers approve nine major worker-friendly bills

By Max Nesterak, Minnesota Reformer

SAINT PAUL — Minnesota Democrats say a sweeping labor bill they passed May 16 could be the most significant worker protection legislation in state history.

“This bill is a big damn deal,” said Sen. Erin Murphy, DFL-St. Paul, during a news conference.

The labor bill (SF3035) includes a Democratic wish list years in the making that will affect virtually every worker in the state. The bill mandates paid sick days, bans non-compete agreements, boosts funding for workplace safety inspectors and increases protections for workers in nursing homes, Amazon warehouses, meatpacking plants, construction sites, hospitals and public schools.

Democrats are also advancing a host of other labor bills that will create a statewide paid family and medical leave program, expand unemployment eligibility for hourly school workers and give hospital nurses a greater say in staffing levels.

Here are nine major labor changes in the labor bill passed by the Legislature, which the governor’s office says he’ll sign.

**Workers will get paid sick days**

Virtually all Minnesota employees will be eligible for paid sick and safe days — with full-time workers receiving at least six paid days off a year. Employees will accrue one hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours they work up to 48 hours a year.

Employees will be able to use the time off for a number of reasons, including:

- To recover from an illness.
- Go to a doctor’s appointment.
- Care for a sick family member.
- Go to a counseling or other psychological appointment.
- Severe weather caused work or school to close for them or a member of their family.
- Seek services for domestic abuse, sexual assault or stalking.

**Teachers will be able to negotiate over class sizes**

Unionized teachers will be able to negotiate over adult-to-student ratios in classrooms and student-to-personnel ratios, which could include school psychologists, custodians, or other staff. They will also be able to negotiate over student testing beyond what the state mandates.

The new rule won’t guarantee that schools will have smaller class sizes. Rather, teachers may now bargain over these provisions in labor contract negotiations with school districts.

**New board will set industry-wide pay and benefits at nursing homes**

Minnesota will create a first-in-the-nation board with the power to set minimum pay and benefits for workers at all nursing homes across the state. The Nursing Home Workforce Standards Board comes close to the sector-wide bargaining — common in Europe — in which labor groups negotiate
Labor bills: the most significant worker protections in state history

continued from page 10

pay and benefits for an entire industry rather than with individual employers.

The board is a leap forward for unions like SEIU Healthcare Minnesota and Iowa, which represent about a quarter of nursing home workers in the state. Having minimum standards removes an incentive for nursing homes to fight union efforts, and raises the floor against which unionized workers bargain for better treatment.

Non-compete and no-poach agreements will be banned
Non-compete agreements will become unenforceable, so workers can take jobs at competing companies without fearing they’ll be sued by their former employers. The agreements have become prolific in labor contracts, affecting everyone from condominium caretakers to fast food workers to doctors. The Federal Trade Commission is weighing a national ban on the practice, which the agency says is an often exploitative move that “suppresses wages, hampers innovation, and blocks entrepreneurs from starting new businesses.”

About one in five American workers — and 350,000 workers in Minnesota — are bound by non-compete agreements, which the FTC estimates costs workers more than $250 billion per year by decreasing competition for their labor.

Business interests argue that non-compete agreements are critical to protecting trade secrets and client lists. The legislation’s authors say businesses can still protect valuable information through nondisclosure and non-solicitation agreements.

The bill also bans no-poach agreements, which operate as shadow non-compete agreements. Franchise owners within the same franchise — such as McDonald’s or Sbarro — agree not to hire from each other, which labor experts say suppresses wages.

Construction workers will have greater protections against wage theft
General construction contractors will be liable for wage theft by their subcontractors and will have to make workers whole if they aren’t paid all that they’re owed.

Construction projects are often completed through a byzantine hierarchy, with general contractors hiring subcontractors who themselves may hire subcontractors. Sometimes even individual workers are treated as subcontractors, which means they don’t receive overtime pay, Social Security benefits or workers’ compensation insurance.

Wage theft and misclassification — being illegally treated as an independent contractor rather than an employee — is rampant in construction, and employers rarely face consequences. That’s in no small part because many non-unionized construction workers don’t have legal authorization to work in the country and are unlikely to take legal action to recover lost wages.

Currently, workers who have their wages stolen must hire an attorney or report it to government authorities. Such cases often take months or even years to be resolved.

Under the new rule, general contractors would have to pay workers their unpaid wages and then could take legal action to recover it from the subcontractor who failed to pay workers all they’re owed.

The bill’s advocates, which includes labor unions, argue the new rule flips the power dynamic so that general contractors with more resources and legal know-how are responsible for correcting wage theft rather than rank-and-file workers. They also argue the bill would disincentivize general contractors from using disreputable subcontractors who are able to offer lower prices by cheating workers out of fair wages.

The bill exempts unionized contractors because unions have their own procedures for recovering lost wages.

Amazon will have to disclose key data to its warehouse workers
Companies that operate warehouse distribution centers like Amazon will have to tell workers what quotas they’re held to and provide workers with their individual productivity data.

The bill aims to protect warehouse workers from high rates of workplace injuries, including repetitive stress injuries caused by quickly doing the same task over and over. Amazon is notorious for measuring workers’ every minute “off task” and disciplining workers for failing to meet opaque quotas. Labor advocates say the lack of transparency on quotas can lead workers to move at a dangerous pace to avoid discipline.

The bill, which will apply to companies with 250 or more employees, requires companies to tell workers what quotas they’re subject to and how it’s measured. Workers

LABOR BILLS page 14
Thank you Essential Workers!

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LiUNA!
Feel the Power
Bricklayers Apprentice Contest

Annual contest showcases and tests skills

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

NEW HOPE — “One hour and five minutes to finish!”

An instructor at the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 1 training center noted the time for six apprentices competing in a tile project.

The competition was part of the BAC training center’s annual apprentice contest May 6.

In a second room, brick apprentices worked on their projects while pointer-cleaner-caulker apprentices worked in a third room.

“It’s not about the time; it’s about their skills… the quality,” said Mitch Reins, a BAC Local 1 member for almost 36 years and instructor for two years.

Second-year apprentice Riley Strate was competing in the contest for a second year. “It’s a challenge,” he said. “You have to finish a fairly complex project in four hours.”

In addition to skilled work with brick and tile, quiet, focused concentration also was on display — in most cases.

Chad Lee, first year apprentice, sang out loud and talked with the apprentice next to him while he worked on tuck-pointing for his project. “I like to talk,” he said. “I had to lighten the mood because I felt a lot of pressure,” he added.

“That’s how we get through our day, it’s the camaraderie and the friendship,” observed Ross Gilmer, nine-year member of BAC Local 1, who was helping to judge the contest for the first time. “I went through the apprentice program,” he noted.

“It’s kind of fun to watch,” Gilmer added.

Indeed, some apprentices’ spouses and children were on hand to watch the competition — and get lunch from a food truck parked outside.

Contest winners included:

**Tile**
- 1st Place: Cody Maus

**Pointer-Cleaner-Caulker**
- 1st Year, 1st Place: Cale Chapman
- 2nd Year, 1st Place: Zakory Lindgren
- 3rd Year, 1st Place: Michael Star

**Brick**
- 1st Year:
  - 1st Place, Ethan Poch
- 2nd Year:
  - 1st Place, Keanan Carlson
- 3rd Year:
  - 1st Place, Colton Weckwerth

BAC Local 1’s signatory contractors provided contest prizes.

*Photo above: Keanan Carlson, second year apprentice, laying the final course of his project, a rowlock course.*

*Photo above: Pointer-Cleaner-Caulker contest judges included Ross Gilmer (left), nine-year BAC Local 1 member and Darrell Koffler (right), 17-year Local 1 member.*

*Photo above: Chad Lee, first year Pointer-Cleaner-Caulker apprentice, using a mortar hawk and tuckpointer to tuckpoint mortar joints that have been removed for restoration.*

*Photo above: Ethan Steen, second year Bricklayer apprentice, using his level to plumb the brick on his project.*

*Photo above: The Bricklayers Local 1 training center is located in New Hope.*
Labor bills
continued from page 11

may not be forced to skip meals, restroom breaks or prayer periods to meet quotas. Workers will also have the right to request their work speed data, and a company must provide the data to workers they discipline for failing to meet a quota.

‘Captive audience’ meetings will be banned

Employers won’t be allowed to require workers to attend anti-union presentations or any other meetings to hear about the employer’s religious or political views.

The so-called captive audience meetings are often the primary way employers discourage their employees from unionizing and can be highly effective. Union organizers argue the meetings give employers an unfair advantage and violate people’s rights to organize free from interference or coercion.

Captive audience meetings were banned for more than a decade after the National Labor Relations Act was passed in 1935. The general counsel of the National Labor Relations Board, which oversees private sector unions, asked the board last year to reinstate the ban on compulsory anti-union meetings.

Large meatpacking plants will need to create injury prevention plans

Meat and poultry processing facilities with 100 or more workers will have to take more proactive steps to reduce workplace injuries. Meatpacking plants must provide workers training on how to safely perform all tasks they’re responsible for as well as the hazards associated with it. Workers must also receive training on how to identify the early signs of musculoskeletal injuries and how to report them.

Workers would be allowed to refuse work they reasonably believe is dangerous, and meat processing plants would have to continue paying employees for missed hours until the hazard has been addressed.

State will create first-of-its-kind ergonomics requirement

The state will fund a first-in-the-nation state ergonomics requirement, mandating that large warehouse distribution centers, meatpacking plants and health care facilities create programs to reduce the risk of repetitive strain injuries.

The ergonomics programs must include assessing risks and training employees on how to avoid injury and recognize early symptoms of musculoskeletal disorders. Employers must also establish a process for employees to report injuries and recommend possible solutions to reduce risks.

The state Department of Labor and Industry will provide grants to employers to make ergonomic improvements.

Editor’s note: This story — current as of May 17 — was edited for space reasons. For the unabridged version, visit minnesotareformer.com.
Saluting the Labor Review!

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Gov. Tim Walz signed the Refinery Safety Law on May 2, strengthening training standards to protect refinery workers and host communities.
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Members and Their Families Congratulate the Minneapolis Labor Review on its 116th Anniversary!
1907-2023

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Happy 116th Anniversary, Labor Review!
Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota’s members continue to meet the challenges faced by educators in these tumultuous times. We appreciate your coverage, and knowing that all union members are in this together to support our communities.

Congratulations Minneapolis Labor Review on your 116th Anniversary!
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Minneapolis Local 3800:  U of M unions, students, staff protest budget cuts, layoffs, interim president

University of Minnesota unions, together with students and faculty, protested at a May 10 meeting of the University’s Board of Regents, voicing concerns about budget cuts, layoffs, and the U’s new interim president.

Staff represented by AFSCME Local 3800 are calling on the administration to pause the PEAK initiative, which the union says will restructure staff positions in a way that will lower the quality of services and likely result in staff layoffs.

“We’ve seen this sort of thing before. Similar centralization efforts elsewhere have failed miserably and were rolled back,” said Cherrene Horazuk, president of AFSCME Local 3800. “The administration has not provided any details about PEAK’s implementation, which does not inspire much confidence from those who will be affected by it.”

The University administration has proposed budget cuts including $2 million in cuts to the College of Liberal Arts. Heather Holcombe, the vice president of faculty union AAUP-UMTC, said “the $2 million in cuts to CLA’s teaching faculty union AAUP-UMTC, said that “the $2 million in cuts to CLA’s teaching budget is roughly equivalent to 200 courses. Contingent faculty earning poverty wages and working on unstable contracts will be fired, enrolled students will have their classes canceled, and new students will have a narrower selection of courses to take.”

Instead of balancing the budget on the backs of students, staff, and instructors, the groups organizing the rally called on the University to “chop from the top” and cut administrative costs.

“Recent events have made it abundantly clear that university administrators can find funds for things they think are worthwhile,” said Cal Mengdelagh of the newly-organized UMN Graduate Labor Union — United Electrical. “This isn’t a budget crisis, it’s a distribution crisis.”

Rally-goers also criticized the appointment of former Hormel CEO Jeff Ettinger as the University’s interim president. Ettinger, who was among four finalists for the position, was the only one with no previous university administration experience.

Carpenters Local 322:  Go Fund Me page established for benefit of son of apprentice Robert Michael Alcure, who died from a fall

A “Go Fund Me” page has been established for the benefit of the 13-year-old son of Robert Michael Alcure. Alcure, 37, was a Carpenters Local 322 apprentice who died from injuries from a fall at a worksite February 21 (Labor Review, April 29, 2023).

As of May 18, $10,000 of the “Go Fund Me” goal of $20,000 had been donated. To donate, go to gofundme.com and search for “Robert Michael Alcure” for the fundraising campaign organized by Brittany Wheelock.

In addition, Local 322 has donated $10,000 for the benefit of Alcure’s son. Other locals affiliated with the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters donated an additional $3,650, with the Council matching the locals’ donations for a total of $27,300 from NCSRC and locals donated in support for Alcure’s son.

Cement Masons Local 633:  Business manager Dave Schutta plans to retire July 31

Dave Schutta, business manager of Cement Masons Local 633, will retire July 31. “I’ve got my 30 years or pretty close,” Schutta said.

Business manager since 2017, Schutta previously served the union as president, as recording secretary, and as a long-time executive board member.

Schutta also worked at the Cement Masons Training Center as a full-time instructor for about seven years before becoming business manager.

With then apprentice coordinator Tom Reger, he pioneered the Training Center’s annual “Concrete Christmas” project, which involved the apprentices in designing and building a holiday-themed display to practice and showcase their skills.

Schutta originally joined Local 633, he related, because “I heard they were looking for cement finishers. I went down and filed an application with Greg Massey and I was hired on.” At the time, he said, “I didn’t know the first thing about concrete back then.”

In 2017, Schutta would succeed Massey as business manager.

Over his years working in the field and instructing at the training center, Schutta said, the trade saw changes in products, technology, equipment, and alternative products like floor coatings.

But, he said, concrete is still the same. Reached May 17 at a community service project with other trades workers at Eagles Healing Nest, Schutta said, “I’m out here today pouring concrete like I did in the old days.”

Schutta will be replaced as business manager by Chad Morris, who is currently a Local 633 business agent.

Another Local 633 business agent, Mike Syversrud, is retiring at the end of May. Syversrud, a 37-year member of Local 633, has served as an elected business agent for the past 23 years, representing Local 633 members in northern Minnesota, all of North Dakota, and seven counties in Wisconsin.

Ironworkers Local 512:  Apply online for apprenticeship interview appointments

Ironworkers Local 512 is accepting applications for its apprenticeship program. Prospective apprentices may apply online for an interview appointment.

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Retiree Meetings

Minneapolis Regional Retiree Council:  Next meeting June 15

The next regular monthly meeting of the Minneapolis Regional Retiree Council, AFL-CIO will be a hybrid meeting — in person and by Zoom — Thursday, June 15 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided for people at the in-person meeting after the meeting adjourns. The in-person meeting will be in Room 218 at the United Labor Centre, 312 Central Ave. SE, Minneapolis.

Parking will be reimbursed if you park in the Saint Anthony Public Parking Ramp (at the corner of 2nd St. SE and University Ave. SE), across University from the United Labor Centre building. Just park and when you come to the meeting we will give you a parking voucher.

To request the Zoom link for the June 15 meeting, or for more information about the Council, contact Graeme Allen, community and political organizer for the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, at 612-481-2144 or e-mail graeme@minneapolisunions.org. The Council plans no regular membership meetings for July and August, but committees will be meeting.

ATU Local 1005 Retirees:  Meet first Wednesday of the month

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

Carpenters Retirees:  Meet last Thursday of each month

Carpenters Retirees meet the last Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters union hall, 710 Olive Street, St. Paul. Lunch follows the meeting.

IBEW Local 292 Retirees:  ‘Senior Sparkies’ will meet June 13, July 11

The IBEW Local 292 Retirees — “Senior Sparkies” — will meet Tuesday, June 13 and Tuesday, July 11 at IBEW Local 292’s union hall, 6700 West Broadway Ave. in Brooklyn Park. For both meetings, a buffet lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m.

Save the date: the Retirees’ summer picnic will be Thursday, August 10 at Local 292’s union hall. Watch for a letter with picnic details.

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

Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Chapter 59:  Meetings resume in the fall

The Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Chapter 59 will be taking a summer break. Future meeting dates for 2023-2024 include: September 26, October 24, November 28 (tentative), January 23, February 27, March 26, April 23, May 28 or 29. The January through March meetings will be via Zoom. For more information, e-mail 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.

Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 Retirees:  ‘Rusty Tinners’ take summer break

The Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 “Rusty Tinners” retirees club will be taking a summer break. Meetings will resume in September. 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!

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More Local Union News

Letter Carriers food drive restocks local food pantries

SAINT LOUIS PARK — Local emergency foodshelves got restocked this month, thanks to the local “Stamp Out Hunger” food drive organized May 13 by Branch 9 of the National Association of Letter Carriers. The local food drive was part of a nationwide campaign organized by NALC. The pandemic put the food drive on hold for three years, so this year’s local food drive was the first since 2019. In the Minneapolis area this year, the food drive returned to its grassroots origins, with local post offices serving as hubs where letter carriers brought food they collected along their routes. The food was then delivered to local emergency food shelves. Volunteers from local unions including the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers and others assisted NALC members on the day of the food drive. Photo, left to right: Scott Bulhema, Branch 9 president; Latalisha McCaleb, Branch 9 food drive coordinator; Joe Tiemann, Branch 9 executive vice president.

“I’ve worked all my life,” Weis said. “Keep the unions going – that’s my concern.”

“I truly believe in the unions and fighting for people’s working environments and getting the best for them,” Weis said.

Painters District Council 82:
Office manager Jean Groshens retires after 16 years
Office manager Jean Groshens retired December 1, 2022 after working for 16 years at International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 82.

Prior to working for District Council 82, Groshens worked for 10 years as a secretary for Ironworkers Local 512.

Groshens was a member of OPEIU Local 12 in both of her jobs for the Painters and the Ironworkers.

“I enjoyed the members of the unions and helping them as much as I could,” she said.

She added, “I worked with some great union leaders.”

Groshens came from a union family. Her father, Bill Peterson, was a business agent for the Ironworkers and later became secretary-treasurer for the Minnesota AFL-CIO.

Groshens’s husband, Charlie Groshens, was an apprentice and then journey worker member of Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 before moving to a job for the State of Minnesota.

“The union has always been my life; It’s been good to me and my family,” Groshens told the Labor Review.

SEIU Local 26:
President Greg Nammacher and other officers run unopposed for re-election

With no opponents, SEIU Local 26 president Greg Nammacher and other officers have been re-elected to three-year terms which begin in August.

In addition to Nammacher, secretary-treasurer Brahim Kone and vice-presidents Kay Brown and Eva Lopez faced no opposition and were declared elected May 6 by the Local 26 election committee in accordance with the Local 26 constitution and bylaws.

Most candidates for executive board delegates also ran without opposition and were declared elected.

An election only for Commercial Cleaning delegates will take place Saturday, July 8 at the SEIU Local 26 offices.

SEIU Healthcare:
Allina workers reach first contract after threatening 7-day strike

More than 500 Allina health workers from 12 job classifications finally got the chance to vote on a first union contract after one-year plus of negotiations. The bargaining teams for the 500 SEIU Healthcare Minnesota & Iowa members reached tentative agreements May 10 with Allina management.

The union had announced May 4 that the workers had voted 98 percent in favor of authorizing an Unfair Labor Practice strike for May 15-21 if a deal was not reached.

After more than one year of negotiations and 90 combined bargaining sessions, the final bargaining session lasted more than 19 hours and concluded at 4:00 a.m.

Jamie Gulley, SEIU Healthcare Minnesota & Iowa president and one of the lead negotiators, said: “I’m incredibly proud of these teams for how hard they fought and for winning strong first contracts… These groups showed how committed they were to making sure healthcare workers are respected, protected and paid — by overwhelmingly authorizing a ULP strike… and their solidarity resulted in the tentative agreements.”

The workers work at Abbott Northwestern Hospital, Mercy and Unity Hospitals and Allina Central Lab as physical therapists, as lab technicians, and in other jobs.

Sources: Labor Review reporting and local unions. Next deadline: July 5.

Pipefitters Local 539

John Kripotos for President in 2023

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- COMET Training instructor
- 15 years as a Shop Steward
- 24 years as a sergeant at arms
- Brotherhood Committee member
- Politically active

Your mail-in ballot must be received by June 12!

Paid for by John Kripotos

McGarvey wins primary for Brooklyn Park city council special election

BROOKLYN PARK — AFL-CIO endorsed Tony McGarvey placed first in a special primary election May 9 for Brooklyn Park City Council’s West District. In a three-candidate race, he won nearly 70 percent of the vote.

McGarvey and the second-place candidate now advance to the August 8 special election.

McGarvey is a member of Painters Local 386.

January-June dues

Please remember to pay your January-June 2023 dues. You are able to pay online for your dues on the Pipefitters website. You do not need to log in to do so.

Annual Picnic coming July 8

The Pipefitters Local 539 Annual Picnic will be on July 8. Information will be mailed out soon.

If you would like something added to the Pipers section of the Labor Review, call the office at (612) 379-4711.

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Minneapolis Labor Review
2023 Publication Schedule

The Labor Review will publish 10 issues in 2023. Note: NO issue published in January and NO issue published in June. The publication date normally will be the last Saturday or second to last Saturday of each month.

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<td>May</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>No issue published</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>July 5</td>
<td>Primary Election Issue</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>August 2</td>
<td>Labor Day Issue</td>
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<td>August</td>
<td>September 6</td>
<td>Deadline: September 6</td>
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<td>September</td>
<td>October 4</td>
<td>General Election Issue</td>
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<td>October</td>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>Holiday Shopping Guide</td>
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<td>November</td>
<td>December 29</td>
<td>Holiday Issue</td>
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Next Special Issue:
August 19, 2023 — Labor Day Issue!
Discounted ad rates available

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

IBEW Local Union 292
Minneapolis Electrical Workers

Upcoming events
Fishing Trip
Friday, June 9
Officer Election (Ballot count starts)
Tuesday, June 13
Golf Tournament
Wednesday, July 12
Family Picnic
Saturday, August 12

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, please call our Brotherhood line at 612-617-4247 or send an e-mail to brotherhood@ibew292.org.

Condolences
Brother Charles “Chuck” A. Berger; Brother Verno Kaunnen; Brother Patrick D. Lynch; Brother Raymond L. Schoefler.

See you at the General Membership Meeting, 5:00 p.m. on the Second Tuesday

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