WASHINGTON — The General Board of the AFL-CIO—representing 60 unions and more than 12.5 million workers—voted June 16 to endorse President Joe Biden for re-election in 2024. Seventeen months out, the endorsement was the earliest the AFL-CIO has ever voted to endorse in a presidential election.

But AFL-CIO president Liz Shuler says without question that Biden is “the most pro-union president in our lifetimes.” “We’ve never seen a president more forcefully advocate for workers’ fundamental right to join a union,” Shuler said.

Twelve affiliated unions joined the AFL-CIO in announcing an endorsement the same day: Actors Equity, American Federation of Government Employees, AFSCME, American Federation of Teachers, Bricklayers, Communications Workers of America, IBEW, Operating Engineers, Iron Workers, IATSE, National Nurses United, and UNITE HERE. The Laborers endorsed Biden prior to the AFL-CIO endorsement and the Plumbers followed with a Biden endorsement June 19.

UFCW wins Lunds & Byerlys contract after holiday strike threat

MINNEAPOLIS — In the days leading to the July 4 holiday, union members at Lunds & Byerlys threatened a three-day Unfair Labor Practice Strike for June 29, June 30 and July 1. That pressure helped move the employer to reach a tentative agreement on a contract with United Food and Commercial Workers Local 663, which represents 2,500 workers at 22 metro area Lunds & Byerlys stores on the west side of the Mississippi River.

Workers voted July 1 to ratify the tentative agreement.

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

The new two-year agreement will provide historic wage increases for both full-time and part-time workers, maintain the workers’ current union-directed health plan with no increased costs to workers, and establish two different joint labor-management committees to address wage equity issues and worker safety concerns.

“This contract is truly historic. In the 35 years I’ve been in the retail grocery industry, I’ve never seen such a rich contract,” said Rosemary Luoma, Local UFCW LOCAL 663 page 4
Summer is here but 2023’s local elections are around the corner

By Chelsie Glaubitz Gabiou, President, Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation

It’s the middle of summer and everyone is hopefully enjoying some quality fun with their families and in their communities. I’m sure the last thing on many people’s minds are the 2023 elections.

But, this November, dozens of cities and school boards across the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation’s seven-county jurisdiction will be conducting their local elections. From cities like Circle Pines (where the mayor’s office and three council seats are on the ballot) and St. Anthony to school districts like Anoka-Hennepin and Westsoka, 2023 is an election year.

Now is the perfect time to start charting our course to fill the seats of our city councils and school boards with pro-worker champions.

These “off-year” local elections do not get nearly the attention of “even-year” elections that feature statewide and national candidates at the top of the ticket. However, despite the relatively small number of vote totals, the local races on the ballot in years like 2023 can have just as big, if not bigger, impacts on working families’ lives.

These local elected officials set critical policies that shape the health and well-being of our local communities and local economies. They are seen as civic leaders and help inform their communities of critical issues that working families are facing. Plus, oftentimes, it is local candidates who eventually run for higher office.

Recently, local school board members have been particularly critical in shaping the debate around truth in education. Our champions have defended our educators and our families against falsehoods and divisive rhetoric about our shared history as a country.

What better way to ensure we have great worker-friendly champions in these positions than to have our own union members run for office? If you are reading this column and you ever have been interested in getting more involved in your community, now is the time to consider running for local office. Or, do you have a co-worker who you think would be a great candidate for local elected office? Encourage them to run!

To see what’s on the ballot in your local area for 2023 visit, www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/whats-on-my-ballot.

Candidate filings are open from August 1-15.

Reach out to graeme@minneapolisunions.org to answer any questions you might have about running for office.

The Minnesota AFL-CIO also offers a Union Member Candidate Program for union members who are running for public office. The program offers training, support, and a chance to network with other union members running for office.

Visit mn aflcio.org/runforoffice for more information.

Local races on the ballot in years like 2023 can have a big impact on working families’ lives

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 subscription service, see page 11.

Minneapolis Labor Review
Since 1907
Steve Share, Editor
Next issue: AFL-CIO
August 19, 2023
Deadline: August 2, 2023
See page 11 for complete 2023 schedule

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

Minneapolis Labor Review (USPS 351120) (ISSN 02749017) is published monthly, except January and June, 10 times per year for $10.00 per year in the United States by the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, 312 Central Avenue SE, Suite 542, Minneapolis, MN 55414-1097.
All other countries $5.00 additional per year.
Periodicals postage paid at St. Paul, Minnesota.

POSTMASTER send address changes to: Minneapolis Labor Review / Minneapolis Labor Review Newspaper, 312 Central Avenue SE, Suite 542, Minneapolis, MN 55414-1097.
Office (612) 379-4725 Fax (612) 379-1307 laborreview@minneapolisunions.org
www.minneapolisunions.org

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Events

July 27: East Side Freedom Library hosts Labor Solidarity Picnic with speakers, food, music

SAINT PAUL — As part of a 10th anniversary celebration, the East Side Freedom Library will host a “Labor Solidarity Picnic” Thursday, July 27 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on the library’s lawn.

The free event will feature speakers from local unions, worker centers and union organizing drives, all updating their work, along with food and music.

The event also will include games and activities for the kids.

The East Side Freedom Library is located at 1105 Greenbrier Street in Saint Paul.

Visit eastsidefreedomlibrary.org/events/solidarity-suppers for more information. Or, call 651-207-4926 or e-mail info@eastsidefreedomlibrary.org.

July 29: Mill City Museum offers ‘Women’s Work,’ a new labor history walking tour

MINNEAPOLIS — Discover the stories of women who lived and worked in Minneapolis on an outdoor walking tour with a Mill City Museum guide.

The museum’s next “Women’s Work” labor history walking tour will be Saturday, July 29 from 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Additional tours, all from 10:00-11:30 a.m. include: Sunday, August 13; Saturday, September 2; Sunday, September 24

Learn about women’s labor — paid, unpaid, legal, and illegal — in industries from laundries and sewing factories to brothels.

Be inspired by the stories of activists including Eva Valesh and Nellie Stone Johnson who fought to improve the lives of working women.

The tours include about 1.5 miles of moderately-paced walking.

The tours will start and end at Mill City Museum, 704 South 2nd St. Minneapolis (just down the block from the Guthrie Theatre).

The cost for the tour is $14, with a 20 percent discount for Minnesota Historical Society members.

To learn more, or to register for one of the tours, visit www.mnhs.org/events/573.

September 6: Minneapolis Building Trades’ DADs Day golf event benefits diabetes research

HAM LAKE — The annual Dollars Against Diabetes — “DADs Day” — golf event hosted by the Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades Council will be Wednesday, September 6.

The event raises funds to support diabetes research.

The venue will be Majestic Oaks Golf Club, 701 Bunker Lake Blvd. NE in Ham Lake.

The cost is $200 per golfer, or $800 per foursome, and includes: continental breakfast, 18 holes of golf with cart, award banquet, steak dinner, and two drinks from the beverage cart or bar. The fee is $100 per dinner and drinks only.

The day will begin with registration and continental breakfast from 7:30-9:00 a.m., with a shotgun start at 9:00 a.m. sharp, followed by golf from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., social hour from 1:30-2:30 p.m. and banquet from 2:30-4:00 p.m.

Mail a check for your total fees to: Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades Council, 312 Central Ave. SE Suite 556, Minneapolis, MN 55414.

September 7: Sporting clays shoot will benefit fund to aid injured building trades apprentices

CLEAR LAKE— The 2023 ACAM Injured Apprentice Sporting Clays Shoot will be Thursday, September 7 at Wild Marsh Sporting Clays, 13481 Co. Rd. 3 in Clear Lake, Minnesota. This Apprenticeship Coordinators Association of Minnesota event raises funds for building trades apprentices who become injured and miss at least 30 days of work.

Check-in will begin at 8:30 a.m. with a safety briefing at 9:30 a.m. The shoot begins at 10:00 a.m. Safety glasses and hearing protection will be required.

Participants are asked to bring 125 shells 12/20 gauge, #7.5 or 8 shot.

Lunch will be served after the shoot.

To register, mail $150 per person checks payable to ACAM to Minnesota Limited Energy JATC, 452 Northco Dr., Suite 140, Fridley, MN 55432. For more information, contact Dave Dressler at 763-571-5922 or ddressler@statewidelea.org.

The day following the AFL-CIO endorsement, Biden spoke at a “Labor Unity” rally in Philadelphia. For a link to view the video, visit minneapolisunions.org.

He’s also put energetically pro-union appointees in charge of the National Labor Relations Board and the Department of Labor, and he signed into law a bill that rescued failing union pensions, restoring retirement security for about a million union members and their spouses.

—Northwest Labor Press
Minnesota Union Leadership Program offers six-session training series beginning this fall

MINNEAPOLIS — Applications are now being accepted for the 2023-2024 Minnesota Union Leadership Program. The program aims to equip participants with the skills and knowledge to address the challenges facing working people and their unions.

Presented by the University of Minnesota’s Labor Education Service, the program includes six in-depth sessions scheduled over eight months.

Session 1, “Worker Culture and Power,” and Session 2, “Workers and Social Movements,” will take place October 25-27 at Ruttger’s Bay Resort near Brainerd, Minnesota.

All of the other sessions will take place at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, located at the U of M’s West Bank campus in Minneapolis:

- Session 6, “Creating the Labor Movement We Want,” May 23.

Applications must be e-mailed or postmarked by September 1.

Tuition is $2,500 and includes two nights and meals for the sessions at Ruttger’s Bay Lake Resort as well as parking, light breakfast, and snacks for the sessions at the U of M.

Applicants typically are sponsored by their union or organization. A limited number of scholarships are available to support applicants who do not have union sponsorship.

Application materials and additional information are available at the LES website at https://bit.ly/3PNjcs.

September 16: MN Building Trades’ inaugural Yellow Ribbon Ribfest to raise funds to benefit service members, veterans, and their families

ARDEN HILLS — The Minnesota Building Trades’ inaugural “Yellow Ribbon Ribfest” promises families “an afternoon of BBQ, music and patriotic fun.”

The event will be Saturday, September 16 beginning at 1:00 p.m. at the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division Headquarters, 4800 Hamline Ave. North in Arden Hills.

Tickets will be available via pre-sale or on the day of the event.

September 21: Working Partnerships golf event will benefit union members in need

COON RAPIDS — Save the date: Thursday, September 21 is set for the Working Partnerships Golf Tournament.

Working Partnerships is the community services arm of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

The nonprofit assists union members in need during times of economic hardship, family crises, strikes, layoffs, lockouts and other emergencies.

The Working Partnerships Golf Tournament will take place at Bunker Hills Golf Club in Coon Rapids, with a shotgun start of 9:00 a.m.

To sign-up a foursome to golf, or for more information on sponsorships and raffle item donations, contact Doug Fiteau at 612-805-4236 or e-mail doug@workingpartnerships.org.

All proceeds benefit the programs of Working Partnerships to support union members and their families.

‘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 August for Fare For All’s sites in the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation’s seven-county region, listed alphabetically by city:

- Anoka, Thursday, August 24, 4:00-6:00 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1601 S. 4th Ave.
- Blaine, Thursday, August 17, 3:00-5:00 p.m., Christ Lutheran Church, 641 89th Ave. NE.

More Events

- Bloomington, Friday, August 18, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Ave. So.
- Buffalo, Tuesday, August 8, 4:00–6:00 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1200 Highway 25 South.
- Chaska, Thursday, August 24, 4:00–6:00 p.m., Crown of Glory Lutheran Church, 1141 Cardinal St.
- Fridley, Friday, August 25, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon, Fridley Community Center, 6085 7th Street NE.
- Golden Valley, Friday, August 25, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Animal Humane Society, 845 Meadow Lane N.
- Hutchinson, Thursday, August 10, 3:30–5:30 p.m., Oak Heights Church, 1398 South Grade Road SW.
- Minneapolis, Friday, August 11, 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, August 16, 3:00–5:00 p.m., St. Joseph Parish Center, 8701 36th Ave. N.
- Norwood Young America, Thursday, August 3, 3:00–5:00 p.m., All FARE FOR ALL page
By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

WHITE BEAR LAKE — Celebrating women who work in the building trades, Women Building Success presented its annual awards June 1 for Apprentice of the Year, Journey Worker of the Year and Women’s Advocate of the Year.

The event took place at Kellerman Event Center in White Bear Lake with about 250 people attending.

Women Building Success received a total of 40 nominations for this year’s awards.

Apprentice of the Year:
Johanna Heath, Ironworkers

Johanna Heath, member of Ironworkers Local 512, was named Apprentice of the Year. Honorable Mentions were presented to: Nicole Belden, Operating Engineers Local 49; Julia Kunze, Plumbers Local 34; and Kateri Lemke, Sheet Metal Workers Local 10.

Journey Worker of the Year:
Sarah Arkeh, Bricklayers

Sarah Arkeh, member of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 1, was named Journey Worker of the Year. Honorable Mentions were presented to Cat Lenander, IBEW Local 110, and Melissa Vandal, Operating Engineers Local 49.

Women’s Advocate of the Year:
Angela Sheehan, Insulators

Angela Sheehan, member of Heat and Frost Insulators Local 34, was named Women’s Advocate of the Year. Honorable Mentions were presented to Rebecca Nohava (Bricklayers Local 1), Julia Kunze (Plumbers Local 34), Kateri Lemke (Sheet Metal Workers Local 10), Melissa Vandal (IUOE Local 49), Cat Lenander (IBEW Local 110), Nicole Belden (IUOE Local 49) and Mandy Reese (Carpenters Local 1382).

For next year, Women Building Success plans to add another award category — Women in Leadership, to recognize the increasing number of women in leadership roles in their unions.

‘Looking for something better’

A few weeks after this year’s Women Building Success awards ceremony, the Labor Review interviewed two of this year’s award-winners, Johanna Heath and Angela Sheehan. They shared more about their careers and how their lives initially led them into the building trades.

Johanna Heath, Apprentice of the Year winner, is a third-year apprentice with Ironworkers Local 512.

Heath, Hastings, currently works for E & J Erectors. “I mainly work in re-bar but the avenue I’d like to pursue even more is called post-tension,” she related, which involves using cables instead of re-bar to strengthen buildings.

“I like the physical aspect of it, seeing a structure grow,” Heath said. She also enjoys solving unexpected challenges: “Sometimes something breaks and you need to figure out how to fix it.”

Heath, now 38, said “I got in late” to a career in the building trades.

“I’m a single mom and I have two kids,” she said. “I was working two to four jobs at a time trying to support them” before becoming an Ironworkers apprentice. “I met some Ironworkers through one of those jobs, bartending,” she related. “I applied. I did not get in the first time,” but, after gaining...
Teamsters set July 31 deadline for UPS strike

MINNEAPOLIS — With the nationwide Teamsters contract with UPS due to expire July 31, the union has spent weeks mobilizing members and staging "practice" picket lines across the country.

As this issue of the Labor Review went to press, the Teamsters announced July 19: "UPS bowed today to the overwhelming show of Teamster unity and reached out to the union to resume negotiations."

The union said new negotiations would be scheduled for the week of July 24.

UPS previously had walked away from negotiations July 5.

Earlier in the month, Teamsters general president Sean O’Brien declared, "we will not be working beyond the expiration date without the contract our members have demanded, and more importantly without the contract our members deserve."

June 16, the Teamsters announced that a strike authorization vote by members who work at UPS passed with 97 percent support.

The contract covers more than 340,000 workers who perform a key role in the U.S. economy to ship and deliver goods nationwide.

The union says UPS Teamsters "are fighting for a new five-year agreement that guarantees better pay for all workers, eliminates the two-tier wage 22.4 job classification, increases the number of full-time jobs, addresses safety and health concerns around heat illness, and provides stronger protections against managerial harassment."

In Minnesota, UPS Teamsters work out of 25 hubs across the state, with the largest hubs located in Eagan, Maple Grove, and northeast Minneapolis.

Teamsters Local 638 represents 4,800 UPS workers across Minnesota and North Dakota.

Local 638 business agent Scott Wilkie reported that the Eagan UPS hub, where Local 638 represents the full-time workers, is one of the bigger UPS hubs in the country.

Teamsters Local 120 represents the part-time UPS workers at the Eagan hub and all UPS workers in South Dakota.

If a contract settlement is reached, Wilkie said, a letter announcing the settlement and a contract proposal from the rank and file members last fall. Those concerns went to the Teamsters central region and vice president. "Come August 1, one way or another, we're going to be out on the streets."

"It all starts with your participation," Teamsters Local 638 president Jonathon Kycek told the Teamsters members in the crowd. He reviewed how issues like member concerns about higher pay and forced overtime came from soliciting contract proposals from the rank and file members last fall. Those concerns went on to the Teamsters central region and then on to the UPS Teamsters National Negotiating Committee, which includes union representatives as well as rank and file members.

"We ended up with a 97 percent strike authorization," Kycek said. "Voting is the most important thing we can do to show the company we're united."

The strike authorization vote means that the UPS Teamsters National Negotiating Committee can call a strike at any time if an agreement with UPS is not reached by July 31.

As Teamsters Local 638 member Ignacio Velasco said he told his three kids, "the way you get corporations to listen to us is you've got to walk out and demonstrate... We're putting our foot down."

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

MINNEAPOLIS — Members of Minneapolis-area Teamsters locals walked a “practice” picket line July 8 to show their readiness to participate in a nationwide strike. The action at the UPS hub at 3312 Broadway St. NE came with July 31 looming as the expiration date for the nationwide contract between the Teamsters union and UPS.

The Teamsters announced June 16 that a strike authorization vote by members who work at UPS passed with 97 percent support.

Miles Bickford of Saint Anthony, a 12-year member of Teamsters Local 638, was one of the Minneapolis-area Teamsters walking the July 8 informational picket line at the Minneapolis UPS hub.

Bickford wore his brown UPS uniform, adorned with numerous pins he received for his safe driving record. "I wanted the company to see what they're losing," he explained, "this is a lot of years."

"I started here right out of high school — two days after I graduated, I was working here," said Bickford, who now is a feeder driver driving the big semi-trailers.

"I like the consistency of it and coming to work every day and knowing I have a job to go to," Bickford said. "It's nice to be under a contract and know what protections and guarantees you have."

For Bickford, the top issues in the current contract negotiations are winning cost-of-living raises and ending a two-tier wage system, where "you've got two people doing the same job" but earning a different rate.

Another Teamsters Local 638 member, Ignacio Velasco, was walking the picket line with his three kids ages 6, 8 and 10 in tow — all carrying picket signs.

Velasco, Coon Rapids, is going on his ninth year at UPS and works as a package car driver, making deliveries to homes.

"I decided to bring my kids because they know why we're doing this," Velasco said. "The thing I can explain is we're doing this to give people wages they can survive on. I tell them, 'you need to speak up.'"

"I'm very vocal about the union," Velasco said. "I explain to my kids: our house, our car, their participation in sports, our giving back to the community" all result from his paycheck and Teamsters contract.

"I tell them I have two families," Velasco said, "our immediate family and the Teamsters."

During a break from the picketing, a few speakers addressed the crowd of several dozen Teamsters members who were joined by supporters from other unions as well as state and local elected officials.

"The 340,000 UPSers control what goes on in the U.S.," declared Tom Erickson, president of Teamsters Local 120 and central region vice president. "Come August 1, one way or another, we're going to have a contract or we're going to be out on the streets."

"We ended up with a 97 percent strike authorization," Kycek said. "Voting is the most important thing we can do to show the company we're united."

The strike authorization vote means that the UPS Teamsters National Negotiating Committee can call a strike at any time if an agreement with UPS is not reached by July 31.

As Teamsters Local 638 member Ignacio Velasco said he told his three kids, "the way you get corporations to listen to us is you've got to walk out and demonstrate... We're putting our foot down."
Union members share hunting and fishing lives with friends and family

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

MINNEAPOLIS — On the calendar, July 15 marks the mid-point of the three months of summer. Many Minnesotans and union members are spending summer weekends fishing and boating “up north” at the cabin or at lakes close to home. But, at summer’s mid-point, many of us also now have an eye turning towards the fall — and, for the hunters among us, plans for deer hunting or pheasant hunting soon will begin to take shape.

For this annual feature story, three union members shared their hunting and fishing lives and how these outdoor pursuits intersect with their work as union members: Vergel Wason, retired Carpenters union member and union leader; Vanessa Kaiser, member of Laborers Local 563; and Richard Shorter, IUE-CWA member and union staff representative.

Vergel Wason, Carpenters retiree

Vergel Wason, retired Carpenters union member and union leader, easily talks about his long union career and his lifelong love of hunting.

Born and raised in St. Paul and now living in Forest Lake, Wason, age 85, graduated from St. Paul’s Murray High School in 1956, joined the U.S. Army, and in 1959 joined Carpenters Local 87.

“I get my 65-year pin next year,” Wason says proudly, adding that his family now includes of four generations of union carpenters — his dad Ray Nelson, stepson Mike Busch, and grandson Robert Busch.

During Wason’s years in the field, he worked for the region’s biggest contractors — McGough, Mortenson, Ryan — at job sites including bridges, oil refineries and the IDS tower.

He became a business agent for Carpenters Local 87 and rose in elected union leadership to serve as executive secretary of the Minnesota Statewide District Council of Carpenters. After 16 years serving in union leadership, he retired in 1998.

“I’ve done a lot of fishing over the years, but I enjoy hunting the best,” Wason says. “I’ve been going hunting in Canada for probably 65 years.”

Over the past 20 years, he says, those Canadian trips took him to Saskatchewan to hunt ducks, geese, and sandhill cranes — but primarily snow geese.

“The snow geese are ruining the tundra,” he reports. “They kind of exploded… They’re moving across the tundra, eating all the vegetation so nothing comes back… They’re trying to thin them out.”

“Over the past 20 years, we have put out 400 decoys to attract the snow geese. But, he adds, “they don’t decoy like they used to… When you start shooting, you’re educating that whole flock… They have wisely.”

“It’s kind of a goofy game,” he says. “They’re frustrating but also a lot of fun.”

Above all, Wason enjoys being outdoors and “the chase.” Explaining building trades members’ connection to hunting, he says simply, “building trades people are outdoors people.” And, he jokes, “stupid enough to lay in the mud.”

Vanessa Kaiser, Laborers Local 563

“Fishing and hunting is a way for us blue collar folks to have peace,” says Vanessa Kaiser, who is three years into a career with Laborers Local 563. “With our types of jobs, the hard work we do, waking up early in the morning, it’s pretty much all work, go, go.” Fishing and hunting, she says, “gives us something to look forward to come the weekend.”

“My whole family fishes. They hunt. It’s just something I grew up on,” Kaiser says. “It helps me take my stress away from work and the kids and household chores.”

Kaiser shares the story of her path to a career in the building trades, telling a story both unique and familiar. “I’m a single mom of two kids,” Kaiser says. “I was going through a divorce. She was working in health care but not earning enough. ‘I wanted a good-paying job that had benefits and a pension.’

“I made a post on Facebook and asked if any of my friends knew how I could join construction,” Kaiser recounts. She applied to Michels and was hired. She now works for the City of Minneapolis driving trucks. Because Kaiser initially entered the trade HUNTING AND FISHING page 8

Game Fair runs August 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20

Outdoors hunting and fishing expo offers hands-on activities

ANOKA — The 42nd annual Game Fair will run Friday to Sunday, August 11-13 and Friday to Sunday, August 18-20, open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day.

This annual outdoor event for hunting and fishing enthusiasts is set amidst the rolling hills, woods and water of Armstrong Ranch in Anoka.

For all ages, Game Fair offers hands-on hunting and fishing experiences.

A full schedule each day offers seminars and demonstrations. Crowd favorites include trick shooting exhibitions and hunting dog competitions. Vendors sell outdoor gear while conservation organizations offer information booths.

Game Fair’s “Family Days” will be Friday, August 11 and Friday, August 18 — offering free admission for kids with a paid adult admission.

Adult admission is $15, $10 for age 62 and older, $10 for veterans, $5 for kids ages 6-14, free for kids 5 and under, and free for active military with an ID.

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

continued from page 5

ing experience working in a steel mill, “I did get in the second time.”

Even as the number of women in the trades grows, Heath said, she usually finds herself the only woman on a jobsite.

But for Heath, “working with the guys created a real bond and created a sort of family, which is really unique.”

To a young woman considering a career in the building trades, Heath offered: “It’s going to be hard. It’s not going to be easy but it’s definitely going to be worth it…the rewards, the benefits, the pension and the skills you learn and the brotherhood far out-weigh any bad day.”

Those now-retired Ironworkers she met while bartending who encouraged her to join? “They knew I was hard-working and I like a challenge and I can give and take sarcasm and comments without getting upset.”

Angela Sheehan, Women’s Advocate of the Year winner, is a 10-year member of Heat and Frost Insulators Local 34. In January of this year, she was elected as a Local 34 business agent and also serves as corresponding and recording secretary.

Sheehan, who lives in Harris, said the other women in the local “look up to me… I’m kind of their go-to, especially the younger apprentices coming in.”

“I tried a lot of different things in my life; I didn’t start in the trade until I was 36,” Sheehan, now 46, reported.

“I had an aunt [Lisa Schmidt] who was in the trade. She suggested it and I loved it,” Sheehan said. “I got in and I found out this was what I wanted.”

Before joining the trade, Sheehan said she did “a little bit of everything,” including retail, waitressing, working as an aide in a nursing home, “I originally went to school to be a nurse but decided that’s not what I wanted to do.”

“I had babies so I didn’t work for a while,” Sheehan said. Her kids are now 20 and 26 and she has two grandchildren.

At Local 34, Sheehan said, what she likes most is “the camaraderie and the family they’ve built here. Everybody looks out for each other.”

In addition to her aunt, Sheehan has other family members who work in union trades — her sister Tamar Williams is a member of Elevator Constructors Local 9 while her brother-in-law Ben Sheehan is a member of Sheet Metal Workers Local 10.

She encourages women to consider a union building trades career. “I run into a lot of ladies who are looking for something better,” she said, while acknowledging “it’s hard to recruit.” “I tell them what a good opportunity it is. We’re always fighting for a better wage… We’re always advocating for each other and our rights and making sure we have a good work environment…That’s the bonus of being in a union.”

Hunting and fishing: Union folks get outdoors

continued from page 7

through working on pipelines, she says, she hasn’t gone through a traditional apprenticeship — but she has made a point to go to the Laborers training center and get all the training an apprentice would get, “so I would look valuable to employers in the field.”

That desire to learn new skills extends to Kaiser’s fishing: “I do tournament bass fishing,” she says. “I like the skills you learn… Every time you’re on the water you learn something new.”

Kaiser also serves as a youth coordinator for Future Anglers of Minnesota, a program which mentors youth and teaches fishing skills and life skills. “Seeing the kids fish — that’s our future,” Kaiser says.

Richard Shorter, IUE-CWA

“When the pandemic started, things were kind of weird. I was looking for any reason to get outside,” recalls Richard Shorter, St. Paul, who is a staff representative for IUE-CWA and is responsible for 20-plus contracts in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois.

Shorter’s friend Eric Salminen, who works for SEIU Healthcare, invited him to go ice-fishing with another friend on Pelican Lake in Centerville. But Shorter, a native of Virginia who moved to Minnesota in 2014, says “as a southern boy, I was scared to death.” He gave it a try, however. “We sat there and ice-fished. I had no idea what I was doing.”

Just being outside, hanging out with friends, and awaiting a bite — it took. He hadn’t fished since age 13, Shorter reports. But now, “I literally — no pun intended — got hooked.”

Come spring, Salminen told him, “we have to go kayak fishing.” So they did. “I caught my first big bass,” Shorter says.

Soon Shorter was buying his own kayak and all his own fishing gear. “I’m all in,” he says. “Prior to fishing, it was paintball,” he says, and he even played pro paintball for two decades.

Now, Shorter is part of a “fishing circle” with Salminen, Minnesota AFL-CIO staffer Todd Dahlstrom, and another fishing friend. “It’s been a very cool way to develop friendships and get away from the crazy, stressful work we do,” Shorter says.

Plus, “I have a three-year-old son now and he said he wanted to go fishing,” Shorter says. They rode their bikes to Beaver Lake, one block from their St. Paul home. “He caught his first fish at the beginning of the summer. It was a great experience!”

For an expanded version of this story, visit minneapolisunions.org.

Crews ready to finish work on new pavilion at Bde Maka Ska

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board says the rebuild for the pavilion at Bde Maka Ska (formerly known as Lake Calhoun) could be complete by September.

The old pavilion was destroyed in a 2019 fire. The $8 million rebuild includes two new buildings, restaurant space, outdoor public seating, a performance space, and rest-rooms.

Photo, left: Members of Cement Masons Local 633 and Laborers Local 563 use a bull float for a June 22 concrete pour for the new boat ramp.
Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005: Rally planned July 24 in Minneapolis at Met Council’s transit budget meeting
Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005 continues to press for a fair contract from Metro Transit for bus operators, light rail operators, mechanics and other members. With the 2023 legislative session, millions of additional dollars will be dedicated to public transit and ATU wants to see Metro Transit’s frontline workers get a share of that funding for cost-of-living raises in the next contract.

The Metropolitan Council’s Transit Budget Meeting will be coming Monday, July 24 to Metro Transit’s Heywood Office Building, 560 Sixth Ave. No. in Minneapolis.

ATU Local 1005 is calling for members and supporters to rally outside the meeting, beginning at 3:30 p.m.

“ar will not create the safe and reliable transit system that workers and riders deserve unless ATU 1005 members demand it,” a flier promoting the rally declared.

AFSCME Council 5: State employees win historic gains in tentative agreement
AFSCME Council 5 announced a tentative agreement June 23 with the State of Minnesota for a two-year contract covering 18,000 Minnesota state executive branch workers.

In a statement, the union said the agreement brings “the highest wage increase we have seen in more than 30 years.”

Members will vote on the tentative agreement during the week of August 7.

In a change from the past, once AFSCME members approve the contract, it will go into effect without a vote by the state legislature.

AFSCME helped to pass that reform in the 2023 legislative session, ending the chance for an unfriendly legislative body to hold the union contract hostage to exact other political measures.

Highlights of the new agreement include: double-digit wage increases over the two years of the contract; a new $20 per hour minimum wage; holding health insurance premium increases to only $1 per month for individuals, $7 per month per families; increasing the shift differential pay from 65 cents per hour to $2.25 per hour for hours worked from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. The agreement also “approves nearly 50 wage inequities proposals that our union submitted that will increase the wages of dozens of job classifications,” AFSCME reported.

With these investments in state employees and other contract gains, the AFSCME Council 5 statement said, “our state can better recruit and retain workers who are integral to the functioning of our excellent state services that all Minnesotans need and deserve.”

Gas Workers Local 340: Scholarship deadline is August 2
Gas Workers Local 340 scholarship application forms are now available. Six $1,500.00 scholarships will be awarded.

To be eligible, applicants must be a son, daughter, or legal dependent of an active, working Local 340 member in good standing.

Applicants must have obtained a “C” (or better) average in their last school year and must attend an accredited technical college, junior college, university or college as a full time student.

Visit gasworkerslocal340.com to download the application form.

The application form is due by August 2. The winners will be drawn at the August 16 general membership meeting.

IATSE Local 13: Stagehands union calls out MN Twins for using non-union labor for summer concert series at Target Field
The union that represents Twin Cities stagehands called out the Minnesota Twins organization, which, along with 555 Event Productions, planned to use non-union labor for the production work at Target Field for a July 14-15 concert series.

The workers were to be paid as independent contractors — receiving 1099s — and would not be covered by workers compensation insurance, would receive no benefits and would not be paid at the same level as union wages, reported Wendell Bell, business agent for International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 13.

But, Bell announced July 14, “through action taken by IATSE Local 13 and its representatives, we were able to bring our concerns to the attention of the Minnesota Twins organization…”

“IATSE Local 13 has come to an understanding with the Minnesota Twins organization to use union labor — i.e., Local 13 union workers will be working at the ballpark this Saturday, July 15, for the second day of the 2023 TC Summer Fest music series at Target Field,” Bell said.

“Going forward,” Bell continued, “we hope future talks between IATSE Local 13 and the Minnesota Twins organization can come to a continuing agreement on labor used at the Target Field ballpark for all events.”

“IATSE Local 13 has worked at the Minnesota Twins’ Target Field for years, doing concerts, and production work for events at the stadium,” Bell noted.

IBEW Local 160: Kurt Zimmerman wins election to full term as business manager
In mail-in election results announced June 16, Kurt Zimmerman won a contested election for a full three-year term as business manager/financial secretary of IBEW Local 160.

Zimmerman, Sauk Rapids, has been a member of Local 160 since 1988 and was appointed to the position of business manager by Local 160’s executive board in 2021 following the retirement of Robert Boogren.

In another contested Local 160 race, incumbent president Kevin Kaeter won re-election.

The three-candidate race for the open vice president’s position initially gave no candidate more than 50 percent of the vote. Wade Crittenden won the run-off election.

Two incumbent officers ran unopposed and will serve another term: Jeff Polson, recording secretary, and Travis Sullivan, treasurer.

The race for executive board seats drew nine candidates, with the top five vote-getters elected. Incumbents who won re-election included Kenneth R.

LOCAL UNION NEWS page 10

Minneapolis Regional Retiree Council: Next regular meeting in September
The Minneapolis Regional Retiree Council, AFL-CIO plans no regular membership meetings for July and August, but committee meetings will be held.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Minneapolis Regional Retiree Council, AFL-CIO will be in September.

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.

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 Sparkles’ will meet August 8
The IBEW Local 292 Retirees — “Senior Sparkles” — will meet Tuesday, August 8 at IBEW Local 292’s union hall, 6700 West Broadway Ave. in Brooklyn Park. A buffet lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m. We will be having a guest speaker.

Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 1:30 p.m., we will be having a two-hour summer boat ride on the St. Croix River. Additional information was mailed.

Thursday, August 10, the Local 292 Retirees summer picnic will take place at Local 292’s union hall. Social Hour starts at 11:00 a.m.

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.

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 Timers’ take summer break
The Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 “Rusty Timers” 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!
More Local Union News

IBEW Local 292:
Jeff Heimerl wins re-election as business manager

In mail-in balloting which concluded June 12, Jeff Heimerl defeated a challenger to win re-election as business manager of IBEW Local 292.

John Kropos won election as Local 292 president, defeating incumbent Dan Ferguson.

This will be a second full three-year term as business manager for Heimerl, 48, who will mark 26 years as a Local 292 member this September. He first was appointed business manager in 2019 to fill a vacancy and then ran unopposed for a full three-year term in 2020.

“Hopefully, the consistency of our leadership and developing long-term plans is going to be beneficial to our local,” Heimerl said.

Moving forward, Heimerl said his main priorities will be organizing the industry, continuing to foster relationships with existing employers, and putting as many IBEW Local 292 members as possible to work.

“A lot of the infrastructure projects that are going to be paid for by the bonding bill are definitely going to mean many IBEW Local 292 members as possible to work,” he added.

Members voted in three new members for Local 292’s executive board: Mike Subject, Kurt Tulp, and John Winkels (although, Heimerl noted, Subject and Tulp previously served on the e-board).

“All of our other e-board positions ran unopposed,” Heimerl reported.

Bill Krause won election as the local’s new vice president.

Returning officers include: Todd Hutter, recording secretary; Jennifer Mudge, financial secretary and assistant business manager; Dave Frary, treasurer.

IBEW Local 292:
Family picnic coming August 12

IBEW Local 292’s annual family picnic is coming Sunday, August 12.

The fun will run from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. outside the IBEW Local 292 union hall, 6700 West Broadway Avenue in Brooklyn Park.

No pre-registration is required.

Overflow parking will be available nearby at the Park and Ride lot at 7000 63rd Ave. N. A shuttle will be available from the lot to and from the hall.

For more information, contact the IBEW Local 292 office at 612-379-1292 or office@ibew292.org

MN Newspaper Guild:
Summer picnic set for August 6

The Minnesota Newspaper and Communications Guild invites members, family members and significant others to a summer picnic Sunday, August 6.

The picnic will take place from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Wabun Picnic Area Shelter B at 4655 46th Ave. So. in Minneapolis (enter from Godfrey Parkway just south of the Ford Bridge near Minnehaha Falls).

Come for a potluck, raffle, swag, kids’ games and more.

The Guild will provide drinks and food for a BBQ while attendees are asked to bring a side or dish to share.

For more details, or to RSVP, visit tinyurl.com/mjay88wd

Sheet Metal Workers Local 10:
Annual Booya planned September 9

Sheet Metal Workers Local 10’s annual picnic and Booya will be back with food and drink, kids activities and more, Saturday, September 9, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Highland Picnic Pavilion, 1200 Montreal Ave. in Saint Paul.

For more information, contact 651-770-2388 or office@smw10.org

Fare for All

Retail workers at REI store in Maple Grove vote to unionize

Retail workers at the REI store in Maple Grove voted 22-4 in a National Labor Relations Board election June 9 to join United Food and Commercial Workers Local 663, becoming the seventh REI location across the country to unionize.

REI, a consumer co-op, sells outdoor gear and has 165 retail stores in 39 states.

“My coworkers and I have done this because we all deserve a voice, to be listened to and respected,” said Madisen Drinen, shipper and receiving specialist and member of the REI Maple Grove Organizing Committee. “We need a living wage, one that increases with inflation.”

“We need change, and I believe collectively is the way to do it. Together, we can get corporate to listen!” said Blake Buzzo, bike and ski mechanic and organizing committee member.

“I am excited to have a say in policies that affects my work,” Buzzo said. “I want to improve work-life balance and get more than nine days notice on schedules so I have more flexibility to plan time with friends and family. I also want to see guaranteed hours for part-time staff.”

“Retail workers are worthy of living wages and need accountability and clear communication from our leaders,” said Manny Yang, customer service sales lead and organizing committee member. “As employees, we are skilled educators of the outdoors who are adapting everyday for business objectives; We are asking REI to do the same. Be a model to society and realize we are an asset to the company.”

“We welcome workers at REI in Maple Grove to the UFCW Local 663 union family,” said Local 663 president Rena Wong. “Now more than ever, it is important to join together in the workplace and form a union to protect, defend and build upon our rights in the workplace.”

Sources: Labor Review reporting and local unions. Next deadline: August 2.

UFCW Local 663:
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Sources: Labor Review reporting and local unions. Next deadline: August 2.

Fare for All

continued from page 4

Saints Lutheran Church, 511 Merger St.

Richfield, Tuesday, August 22, 1:00–3:00 p.m., Richfield Community Center, 7000 Nicollet Ave. So.

St. Louis Park, Wednesday, August 16, 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.
Annandale schools: More classroom space needed

continued from page 2

middle school building is “fundamentally not responsible.”

“The facility we have is not an optimal learning space,” added middle school band teacher Karinda Duffy, who has worked 10 years in the district and who serves with Dickinson as co-president of the Annandale Education Association, the local teachers union.

At the middle school, she said, “a lot of our program and curriculum is currently limited by lack of space” and “a big part of the middle school is not air conditioned.”

At the elementary school — which currently runs through grade five — mechanical rooms and storage closets are being used for student learning. If the bond referendum passes, grade five would move to the relocated middle school, easing space pressure in the elementary school.

At the high school, where tech ed classes have been reintroduced, Dickinson said there simply isn’t the space to accommodate growing student interest in classes like woodshop and welding. “You can’t add a teacher if you don’t have a space to teach.”

District enrollment has grown by 20 percent in the past ten years, the district reports, but classroom space has not grown. Classrooms were designed for 25-26 desks, Dickinson noted, but “now you’re squishing 31 desks in there.”

Election day voting will be available Tuesday, August 8 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Annandale City Hall, 30 Cedar Street East.

In-person early voting is underway through Monday, August 7 weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the school district office, 125 Cherry Ave. N.

Voters may also vote by absentee ballot through August 4.

For more information: cardinalbond.com

Brooklyn Park: McGarvey labor-endorsed for council

continued from page 2

Voters may request a mail-in ballot. Tuesday, August 8 election day voting will be at regular West District polling places.

Contact: mcmgarveyforbp.org
For voting information: brooklynpark.org/elections

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.

August 19
Deadline: August 2
Labor Day Issue

September 23
Deadline: September 6

October 21
Deadline: October 4
General Election Issue

November 18
Deadline: November 1
Holiday Shopping Guide

December 16
Deadline: November 29
Holiday Issue

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
Red Sox slam Twins 10-4 for annual ‘Trade Night at Target Field’

Dave Schutta, retiring Cement Masons Local 633 business manager, throws out ‘first pitch’

MINNEAPOLIS — The final ticket count reported 1,206 Building Trades union members, friends and family members turning out June 20 for the annual “Trade Night at Target Field,” sponsored by the Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades Council.

The hometown Minnesota Twins were kept scoreless through seven innings by the Boston Red Sox, who led 8-0 at the bottom of the seventh inning and went on to win 10-4.

Still, the night offered beautiful weather for an outdoor ballgame and for the Minneapolis Building Trades’ pre-game picnic at the Minneapolis Farmers Market.

After a two-year hiatus because of the pandemic, “Trade Night at Target Field” was back on for a second year in a row.

The event brings one of the largest groups of the year to Target Field for a Twins game, the Twins reported.

Each year for “Trade Night,” a Building Trades member gets the honor of throwing out a ceremonial “first pitch” for the ballgame.

This year’s honoree was Cement Masons Local 633’s Dave Schutta, who will be retiring July 31 after 30 years in the trade.

Local 633’s 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.

Like “first pitch” honorees before him, Schutta said he spent some time practicing for the big moment!