



Vol 1 | Issue 7

December, 2023

# MN GUILD NEWSLETTER

## FREE! LinkedIn Learning Account

LinkedIn Learning (formerly Lynda.com) is a massive online video course provider taught by industry experts in software, creative, and business skills.

CWA offers all members in good standing access to a free premium LinkedIn Learning account. The account lasts for 1 calendar year but you can reapply next December.

Click the black "Register Now" button at [this page](#) and then "Create an Account and Register." You may have to wait until early January for approval

## How Has MN Guild Served You?

Every year, we snail-mail one letter to our members which includes some of our proud moments over the last year. You can expect it in your mailboxes sometime in January.

This year, we are hiring Jessi Mischo and the rest of the [Smart Set](#) team to design and print it for us. Jessi has been volunteering her graphic design and layout skills for all these newsletters and it has been an unbelievable help. Next time you see her, let her know how much you appreciate her work!

Pictured: Jessi Mischo, (*Smart Set, Inc.*) and daughter, Hazel.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 01/24 MN Guild Membership Meeting

6:00PM | Wednesday, January 24th *Virtual*

[Email Marilyn](#) to request the Zoom link. The other scheduled meeting dates this year are: March 27, May 22, and September 25. All meetings are virtual and start at 6pm (CT).

### 02/22 Roy Wilkins: Minnesota Journalist to Civil Rights Luminary

12:00-1:00PM | Thursday, February 22nd *Virtual*

Join us for the FIRST event hosted by the MN Guild Human Rights Committee! St. Thomas professor Dr. Yohuru Williams will discuss the impact and legacy of Roy Wilkins and his relationship to civil rights, labor, journalism, activism, and Minnesota. This event is free and open to the public but [RSVPs are required](#).



Support local union shops this holiday season, with [this list](#) courtesy of the national AFL-CIO!

## TNG's Steward Training Series

Every other Tuesday at 8pm (CST) *Virtual, free.*

Attend the whole series or pick-and-choose topics. Click the module to register. Open to all.

[Dec 19 | A Union Representative](#)

[Jan 9 | Anti-Harassment Training](#)



- LINKEDIN LEARNING
- MN GUILD LETTER: INCOMING!
- HUMAN RIGHTS CORNER: RUSTIN (FILM)
- VITAL AND OVERLOOKED: MEDICAL INTERPRETERS
- JOURNALISM IN THE NEWS
- FREE MN GUILD T-SHIRTS
- DNT'S ANNUAL MEETING
- 1ST TIME HOME-BUYERS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



## RUSTIN: a “moving biopic” about MLK mentor

By Neal Justin, Star Tribune

“Rustin” is a moving biopic about Bayard Rustin, Martin Luther King Jr.’s mentor, who led efforts for the March on Washington. Colman Domingo eloquently captures the pain and pride that drove an activist, persecuted for both his sexual orientation and the color of his skin. He should be a strong Oscar contender. But the film, now streaming on Netflix, also has a lot to say about the power of unions. The film’s biggest hero, aside from the title character, is labor union leader A. Philip Randolph, played by Glynn Turman. Director George C. Wolfe makes it clear that skeptics like St. Paul’s own Roy Wilkins (Chris Rock) wouldn’t have signed off on the march if unions hadn’t lent their full support. The movie may be named after one man, but it’s determined to show that the historic event was a team effort.

## UNIT UPDATES

### Vital and Overlooked: Medical Interpreters

By Maggie Sweeney, *HHS Language Interpreter*  
(Republished from the [Star Tribune Opinion](#) section)

The recent report on my colleagues in the emergency room (“[The trauma of dealing with trauma never stops](#)”) was intimate and thorough, but I couldn’t help but notice the invisibility of a certain role — one that by design is meant to pass unnoticed but is critical in this high-acuity, high-stakes stage: the professional medical interpreter.

Our lack of inclusion is, in fact, most appropriate given that our role is to facilitate understanding and direct communication between providers and patients. Still, it’s disappointing that our essential service was not just glossed over but completely overlooked. When 1 out of 5 patients walking through Hennepin Healthcare’s doors require language services, we are integral to providing equitable health care.

As interpreters, we must remain true to the message and interpret as precisely as we can, which might mean cursing out a dear friend. Or perhaps we are the first ones to hear of the devastating cancer diagnosis before relaying the shocking news to the patient. No matter the verdict, we have the honor and burden of giving it.

We’re a crucial part of the caregiving team and work hand in hand with the heroes of HCMC’s emergency room.

Because just like them, it’s not just our job, it’s our vocation.

### FREE

#### MN GUILD T-SHIRTS

Available in medium to XL. They also make great sleepshirts for your kiddos. [Contact Allana](#) to arrange pick-up.

### HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2024

Second Tuesday of the Month!  
at 10-11am CT. [Email Allana](#) to get the Zoom invite.

## JOURNALISM IN THE HEADLINES

### Fund Journalists, Not Hedge Funds

[Vampiric Hedge Fund is Eating the Pioneer Press Alive](#) (MN Racket)  
TNG digs into Pros/Cons of [Journalism Competition and Preservation Act \(JCPA\)](#) (The News Guild)

### Use Journalists, Not Robots:

[Sports Illustrated is latest media company damaged by AI experiment](#) (Pioneer Press) and the [Sports Illustrated Union’s response](#) (SI Union, Twitter)  
[Gannett uses AI to make fake reviews, authors](#) (TNG-New York, Twitter)

# UNIT UPDATES

## Union Members need a Home! Assistance for First-Time Buyers

by Dan Scoggins, *SEIU 26*

It should be the expectation of every union member to have a home; it's part of our social contract, right behind health insurance, a pension, and the 40-hour week!

Most Union members have a stable income and often pay a significant rent but would prefer homeownership if we could get help with credit or a down payment. SEIU Local 26 has connected members to the Minnesota Homeownership Center, with some receiving as much as \$10,000 in down-payment assistance!

The Minnesota Homeownership Center can help you to get out of renting and achieve homeownership for yourself. They offer help with credit counseling, getting "mortgage-ready," the home buying process and the responsibilities that come with being your own landlord. They also are experts at

navigating the various down payment assistance programs that are out there.

Bill Gray, Stakeholder Relations Director at the Homeownership Center, reports that \$150 million in new downpayment [assistance for first-generation buyers](#) was passed by the State Legislature this past spring. The money will be available beginning in April of 2024. These funds are specifically aimed at people who have never owned a home, and whose parents or legal guardians also never owned a home.

The [Minnesota Homeownership Center](#) has a network of homeownership advisors located in non-profit and community-based organizations across the state, who can help Union members in their pursuit of homeownership for FREE. Click the links to get started.

## Duluth News Tribune's Annual Meeting

The annual gathering of Guild members at Duluth News Tribune (DNT) has been extra meaningful since most staff work remotely. Candace, Allana, and Nick Woltman (MN Guild President), both Star Tribune reporters based in Duluth, and Catherine Conlan (Labor World), joined the DNT gathering. Tom Olsen was re-elected as unit chair for another 2-year term.

Left: Mary Beamish, Melinda Lavine, Teri Cadeau (Duluth News Tribune), Jana Hollingsworth, Christa Lawler (Star Tribune), and their families in active conversation. Right: Jay Gabler (DNT) sporting his Baby Yoda holiday sweater.



**NEWSLETTERS ARE A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT. CONTRIBUTORS WANTED!**

Are you willing to write a unit update, submit art, draw a comic, or have other ideas for content? Quieres este boletín en español? The more members that participate, the more this is a project by-and-for the people.