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MN GUILD NEWSLETTER

Our Labor Newspapers Won Awards!

In December, the International Labor Communications Association (ILCA) announced its 2022 Labor Communications Contest winners. Annually, the organization hosts the largest competition exclusively for labor journalists. Thousands of entries that tell the story of the global labor movement are judged by experts in the field across the industry. Congratulations Steve and Michael!

Steve Share (Minneapolis Labor Review) awards:

- Saul Miller Award: Collective Bargaining; 2nd place; [After negotiating 19 months, Augsburg Staff Union wins first contract](#)
- Saul Miller Award: Organizing; 2nd place; [Voting 'yes' for union, workers at local Starbucks join nationwide movement](#)
- Writing: Best Labor History Story; 3rd place; [Nellie Stone Johnson Statue Unveiling](#)

Michael Moore (St. Paul Union Advocate) awards:

- Saul Miller Award: Political Action; 2nd place; [Uber, Lyft drivers push local lawmakers to regulate their industry](#)
- Writing: Best News Story; 2nd place; [Alleged rape on Wilfs' Viking Lakes development sparks outrage, calls for change](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Portrait of Roy Wilkins by Henry Koerner; National Portrait Gallery.

01 MN Guild Membership Meeting

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

24 [Email Marilyn](#) to request the Zoom link. All members encouraged to attend! Agenda includes: Installation of officers, annual audit review, Pittsburgh strike donations discussion, MN State Programs discussion, and Labor Notes discussion.

02 Roy Wilkins: Minnesota Journalist to Civil Rights Luminary

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

Hosted by the MN Guild's Human Rights Committee. Interviewers will be Cierra Brown (*Take Action MN*) and Fred Melo (*Pioneer Press*). 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](#).



IN THIS
ISSUE:

- LABOR NEWSPAPER AWARDS
- UPCOMING EVENTS
- HRC: ROY WILKINS BIO
- NATIONAL HISTORY DAY COMPETITION
- MN GUILD'S A.I. SURVEY RESULTS

Roy Wilkins; a tiny bio

By Allana Olson (MN Guild Staff) and Nick Woltman (Pioneer Press)

You've probably heard of Roy Wilkins Auditorium in St. Paul, but what do you know about the man it's named after?

As executive director of the NAACP from 1964 to 1977, Roy Wilkins led the organization through a pivotal period in the Civil Rights Movement, which saw a string of landmark victories during his tenure, including *Brown v. Board of Education*, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Wilkins got his start in the Twin Cities, though. Born in 1901 in St. Louis, Mo., he moved with his family to St. Paul as a child. Wilkins began a career in journalism as a reporter for the *Minnesota Daily* while he was a student at the University of Minnesota. He was still in school when he took over as editor of *The Appeal*, St. Paul's preeminent African American newspaper.

After graduating in the early 1920s, Wilkins became editor of the *Kansas City Call*, another well-known Black newspaper. Shortly after joining the staff of the NAACP in 1931, he became the editor of the organization's magazine, *the Crisis*.



After ascending to executive director, he testified before numerous congressional hearings and was an advisor to 5 U.S. presidents – John F. Kennedy through Jimmy Carter. He co-founded the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, and, in 1968, was chair of the U.S. delegation to the International Conference on Human Rights.

Wilkins' colleague Joe Rauh described how the leader was instrumental in shifting Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dynamism into doctrine. "Roy was the one able to use that shift in public opinion to bring about legislation and legal rulings that benefited blacks, as well as any number of other people," said Rauh.

To learn more about Roy Wilkins, join us on **February 22** for a virtual lunch hour discussion of his career and his ties to the Twin Cities with St. Thomas professor Yohuru Williams.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE CORNER

National History Day Competition

Middle and High students have the opportunity to participate in the National History Day where students undertake projects of an untold story in American History. Students (individually or in small teams) take ownership of presenting their project – on a storyboard, in a paper, in a performance, in a video or via an interactive website. In addition to presenting historical materials, they must also make an argument about how their topic affected individuals, communities, nations, or the world, changing the course of human society. Students will compete with peers from their grade levels and winners go on to compete regionally, statewide, and even nationally.

The East Side Freedom Library in St. Paul has been a decade-long partner in this project: connecting mentors and offering the library's rich collection to students. Their team

of mentors include retired public-school teachers, college professors, and college students. They gather every Saturday from 10am-noon through April but can also connect with students by appointment and/or over Zoom.

Get Involved:

The 2024 theme is "Turning Points in History" which has potential for projects on labor, immigration, racial and gender justice, and more. Is your teen participating, or interested in participating? Would you like to be a mentor? Reach out to Peter@EastSideFreedomLibrary.org or call 651-207-4926 to get paired up.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2024

Second Tuesday of the Month!
at 10-11am CT. [Email Allana](mailto:Allana@EastSideFreedomLibrary.org)
to get the Zoom invite.

GUILD'S ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE LOCAL SURVEY RESULTS

by River Fiocco (Take Action MN)

The National News Guild released the results of their AI survey in an email. You can [view that summary here](#). The national NewsGuild hosts monthly meetings about AI. If you want to attend, [let Allana know](#) and she'll connect you.

The following results were compiled from the 44 members of the MN Guild that participated representing 16 different units.

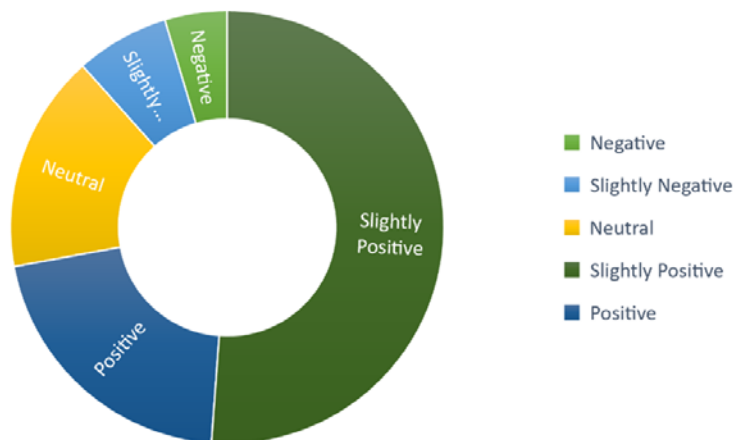
Overall attitudes about AI:

- On average, survey respondents thought that AI would have a **minor, slightly positive impact in their professional lives** in the next year. See Graph #1.
- **19% of survey respondents voiced fears that AI could affect job security for union workers:** "I believe using AI in the workplace would reduce union workers. What I believe in Union is to we work together using our skills for better, not using AI to reduce human power."

Current AI Usage Within the Units

65% of respondents reported that their employer has not yet implemented AI. See Graph #2 for a breakdown of where and how it's being utilized.

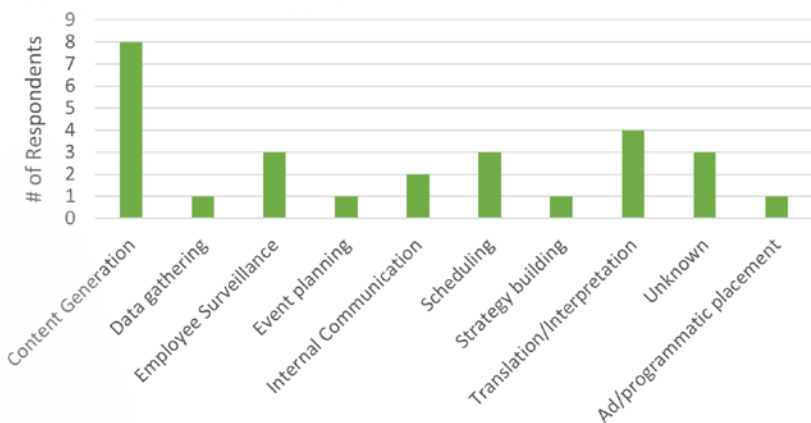
1. Overall Opinion of AI's Impact on Society



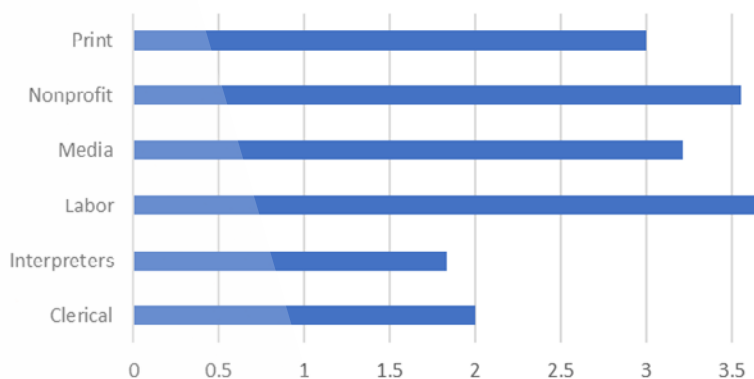
Union's Role in AI Moving Forward

- **84% of respondents believe that unions have a moderate or strong responsibility to advocate for responsible and ethical use of AI in the workplace.** Potential language regarding union advocacy around AI: "We should argue on the basis of making people's lives better and not benefit just the few who will control the technology."
- In the optional short-answer questions, **40%** of people who responded suggested including language about AI in their next contract bargaining process and **30%** suggested that our unit advocate politically for legal protections for workers against AI. (These were the 2 most common suggestions.)
- When asked how much they trust their employer to use AI ethically and responsibly on a 1-5 scale, respondent's average trust rating with **3.09**. Broken down by sector/industry, we can see more nuance (Graph #3).

2. How is AI already being used across our unit?



3. Average Trust Rating (1-5) in Employer to Use AI Ethically & Responsibly by Industry



NEWSLETTERS ARE A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT. CONTRIBUTORS WANTED!

Send story ideas, content, group photos, or artwork to allana@mnguild.org