



Vol 1 | Issue 12

May, 2024

MN GUILD NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

05
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Smart Set's (Grand Opening) Open House

5:00PM-10:00 PM | Friday, May 17th 2521 24th Ave S, Minneapolis

Join Smart Set in celebrating their new home! There will be snacks, drinks, and live music from 6-9PM by The Brass Messengers

05
22

MN Guild Membership Meeting

6:00PM | Wednesday, May 22nd Virtual

[Email Marilyn](#) to request the Zoom link.

05
23

ACLU-MN Pints & Politics @ Urban Growler Brewing Co.

5:00PM-10:00 PM | Thursday, May 23rd 2325 Endicott St, St Paul

Meet Guild members Catherine Ahlin, Alicia Granse, and Paul Sullivan to learn what the ACLU-MN is doing to protect voting rights in Minnesota.

06
05

Racial Justice and Solidarity Workshop MN AFL-CIO & SEIU Healthcare MNIA

9:30AM-3:30PM | June 5th-6th 345 Randolph Ave, St Paul

[Sign Up Here](#), or contact [Robyn Gulley](#). Participants will explore the history and continued impact of racial justice in labor organizations.

06
18

HRC: Braver Angels

Noon-1:00PM (CT) | Tuesday, June 18th Virtual

[RSVP for the Zoom link](#). MN Guild's Human Rights Committee is hosting a representative of the Braver Angels organization for an online discussion of how to constructively discuss human rights issues with people on all points along the political spectrum.

'HUGE NEWS'

NLRB seeking injunction that could end Pittsburgh news workers strike

The National Labor Relations Board authorized the regional NLRB office to seek an injunction in the guild's and sister unions' case against the Post-Gazette for dozens of ongoing unfair labor practice violations of federal law.

Possibly at stake, Zack Tanner [president of the Newspaper Guild of Pittsburgh] said, "We're talking millions of dollars" that a federal judge could compel the company to pay, including to "make whole" workers for at least some of their losses, while also ending the strike and sending the strikers back to work and back to the bargaining table.

Read more from the [Pittsburgh Union Progress](#).



IN THIS ISSUE:

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- NEWSPAPER SUE OPENAI/MICROSOFT
- STATE OF JOURNALISM
- STATE FUNDING FOR NEWS JOBS
- REPORT FROM LABOR NOTES

JOURNALISM COLLABS WITH LEGISLATURES TO SAVE LOCAL NEWS

California: SB 1327 proposes Big Tech tax to help fund news jobs *(from TNG newsletter)*

Senate Bill 1327, sponsored by California Sen. Steve Glazer, would implement a Data Extraction Mitigation Fee on massive tech platforms that have displaced tens of thousands of local journalism jobs across the U.S. The platform fee would generate revenues for a refundable employee hiring and retention tax credit that's designed to preserve and create journalism jobs in local newsrooms across California.

Watch SB 1327's press conference [here](#)

New York: News Guild-CWA Achieves Historic Legislative Win *(from CWA Newsletter)*

The New York Assembly and Senate [in late April] passed a first-of-its-kind journalism jobs tax credit in the 2025 budget. The credits will become law when New York Governor Kathy Hochul signs the state budget.

The job tax credits were first introduced as the Local Journalism Sustainability Act (S.625-Hoylman-Sigal/A.2958-Worner). The final budget language provides \$30 million in tax credits each year over three years, covering half of a journalist's salary up to \$50,000 each year. Publishers will only be able to use these employment tax credits to rebuild their newsrooms by hiring new reporters and retaining current staff.

The organizing effort for this initiative has been spearheaded by the Albany Newspaper Guild, New York News Publishers Association, the New York State AFL-CIO, NewsGuild-CWA, and the Communications Workers of America.

NewsGuild-CWA President Jon Schleuss said, "Journalists are the watchdogs of democracy's flame and we have to support them. The NewsGuild-CWA applauds New York state for leading the country and passing first-of-its-kind legislation to support journalism jobs and recognizing the important role journalists play by shining a light and protecting our democracy."

PIONEER PRESS, NYT, OTHERS SUE MICROSOFT AND OPENAI

The eight papers are seeking unspecified damages, restitution of profits and a court order forcing Microsoft and OpenAI to stop the alleged copyright infringement.

Read more at [msn.com](https://www.msn.com).

STATE OF JOURNALISM

Matt Pearce, President of Media Guild of the West joined [comedian Adam Conover's show *Factually!*](#) for an in depth discussion on the state of journalism and how unions can play a role in safeguarding its future.

A sold-out house watched the documentary "Stripped for Parts: American Journalism on the Brink" last month at the local MSP International Film Festival.





Duluth Journalism Forum Addresses Important Issues in Political Reporting

The April 10th journalism forum in Duluth addressed more than its promoted agenda of 'covering politics in greater Minnesota.'

Questions were posed to the panel about the role of journalists in a divisive political climate, how they can do a better job covering races and issues in communities outside major metropolitan areas, and how they can work together to combat misleading news. Answers focused on understanding regional issues of importance, getting local perspectives, fact-checking, and selecting appropriate delivery formats.

The forum drew a standing-room only crowd of more than 100 people to the Zeitgeist Performance Theater in downtown Duluth. It was a successful beginning to what many in attendance hope will be more jointly sponsored journalism events across the upper Midwest.

(Photos and article excerpts used with permission from author. You can read the [full article here.](#))

There can be no press freedom if journalists exist in conditions of corruption poverty or fear.

From www.IFJ.org

The International Federation of Journalists reports that 99 Journalists and Media Staff were killed in 2023.

Far too many are still in prisons for doing their jobs.



Defend the freedom of the press!

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www.mnguild.org



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

MEETINGS FOR 2024

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

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2ND ANNUAL GUILD PICNIC

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

MINNEHAHA PARK IN MINNEAPOLIS

LABOR BOWL 2024

Larry Nelson (*FairVote MN*), Allana Olson (*Guild staff*), Craig Freeman and Fritz Bimberg (*Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative*), and Sierra St. John (*Minnesota Council of Nonprofits*) represented the MN Guild at Labor Bowl 2024. Photo by Michael Moore (*St. Paul Union Advocate*).



UNIT UPDATES

Make Good Trouble: Labor Notes 2024 Report

The MN Guild sponsored (for \$500 each) two members to attend Labor Notes this year. Below is a brief account from Larry Nelson (*FairVote MN*).

Last month I had the opportunity to return to Labor Notes, the large labor conference that takes place in Chicago every two years. This year over 4,500 union members and supporters attended from around the world, including over 140 News-Guild members.

Many NewsGuild members also lead workshops. I attended several that talked about the need to create member engagement or find ways to include new members. Strategies included building a culture of unity through, for example, holding monthly meetings where all members are included. Also, having a good network of stewards that will listen to members and bring concerns to both management and union leadership. Another takeaway was how important it is to keep organizing even after you have won your union so you can go into contract bargaining in a strong position. We also create member engagement through doing one-on-ones with members, explaining not only that they are part of a union but why it's important that the union exists and the need for members to be involved.



The conference concluded with a panel that included UAW president Shawn Fain who was fresh off a huge union victory in Tennessee. He compared the work UAW members did fighting fascism in WW2 building liberator bombers to the work being done today to create a fairer, just economy; 'The working class is the arsenal of democracy, and workers are the liberators.'

The next Labor Notes Conference will be in 2026. I hope to see you all there.

Above: Maeve Olson (*Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative*) with Jaime Hokanson (*RLM Arts*) and Ricardo Levins Morales (*RLM Arts*). Ricardo was honored with the 2024 Troublemaker Award.



Below: Need an employee morale booster? Guild member Haylee Hilton (MN AFL-CIO) pounced on the opportunity to attend Puppy Day at the Minnesota State Capitol, sponsored by the American Humane Society.



Sharing in celebration with the **Saint Paul Pioneer Press** on its **175th anniversary**:

— **APRIL 28, 2024** —

We salute the reporters, editors, advertisers, and many, many others who have made this organization what it is through glorious and hard times.

Minnesota Guild: representing staff of the Pioneer Press and its predecessors since 1933.

**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.