



Volume 2 | Issue 3

August 2024

MN GUILD NEWSLETTER

THE MINNESOTA GUILD

ANNUAL PICNIC

11AM-2PM | SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH
MINNEHAHA PARK: WABUN SHELTER B | MINNEAPOLIS, MN

UPCOMING EVENTS

08
22

CWA At The MN State Fair (Running 8/22-9/2)

8:00AM-5:00PM | Thursday, August 22nd

Visit the *Labor Pavilion* to chat with fellow Guild members at the CWA kiosk. Other Guild members will be at the Star Tribune, Pioneer Press, and MN AFL-CIO kiosks. Please stop by and introduce yourself!

09
29

MN Guild Picnic & Potluck!

11:00AM-2:00PM | Sunday, September 29th

Minnehaha Park, Wabun Shelter B

Join us for our second annual get-together! Bring your family along and enjoy games, giveaways, and some top-notch camaraderie.

[Did you RSVP?](#) Having accurate numbers helps us to not waste food.



EVENT: NO WORK IS INSIGNIFICANT

By Nick Voltman (*Pioneer Press*)

Dr. Yohuru Williams, who presented at our Human Rights Committee event in February, will be hosting a virtual learning session in September that our members might be interested in.

According to the organizers, “No Work is Insignificant: Diversity, Employment and Racial Justice in the Aftermath of the Civil Rights Act of 1964” the St. Thomas professor will “delve into the historical context, pivotal moments and lasting impact of this landmark legislation on the American workforce.”

“Dr. Williams will explore the lingering questions of labor and diversity laid bare and left open despite the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, including the importance of recruiting and maintaining a diverse workforce.”

This event is scheduled from **noon to 1 p.m. on September 17**, and a recording will be available through the 29th. [Register here.](#)

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- FOUR D'S OF OPPRESSION

Jessie Van Berkel

Amanda Anderson

Molly Guthrey Mary Divine

Ryan Faircloth

Jeff Hargarten

Elena Neuzil

Rachel Hutton

Neal Justin

Aaron Lavinsky

Laura Yuen

Nick Ferraro

Rochelle Olson

Briana Bierschbach

Josh Jones Andy Mannix

Matt DeLong

Renée Jones Schneider

Chris Tomasson

C.J. Sinner

Anna Boone

Jeffrey Meltrodt

Richard Chin

David Banks

Bryan Brussee

Yuqing Liu

Susan Du

Peter Callaghan

Frederick Melo

Kavita Kumar

Ben Goessling

MaryJo Webster

2024 MN Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) Award Winners

Guild members took home a total of 41 SPJ awards this year. Although most went to the Star Tribune, the team at MinnPost were awarded for their striking headlines, and five Pioneer Press members took home awards in the categories of features and breaking news reporting.

Andy Mannix (*Star Tribune*) won the Journalist of the Year award for his piece on [the death of Heather Meyer](#) and other coverage. The Meyer story was co-written by Renée Jones Schneider (*Star Tribune*) who shared the award for Best Story.

Congratulations to all the award winners. The full list of winners and links to many of their pieces can be found at [SPJ Award Winners](#).

DID YOU MOVE?

Congratulations to a small pile of members who are purchasing their first house this summer!

Please [let Marilyn know](#) if you've moved this year so we can keep our records updated.

UNIT UPDATES

"This is the Hardest Thing We've Ever Done"

By Lauren Booth, Vero Orellana, Rebecca Chang (UFCW 663)

"Unionizing will probably be the hardest thing you will ever do," is something we as organizers have told grocery and meat-packing workers time and time again. On August 14, 2023, out of an abundance of love and care for each other, we, as staff members of the United Food & Commercial Workers Local 663 (UFCW 663), asked for recognition of our union.

From March to July 2024, we rolled up our sleeves and started bargaining our first contract. We felt really powerful sharing and creating most of our proposals with some guidance from Candace Lund. We knew how our leadership bargained with other employers, so to be on the other side and take what we learned from them over the last year and a half was very empowering. It helped build our confidence, which in the end, will only help us do

the same for our members. At times, we co-created policies alongside our leadership — all of us wanted policies that would help UFCW 663 become a strong, fighting union.

One of the first things we noticed were all the verbal policies from past leadership. We kept finding so many inconsistencies, which made it difficult to balance honoring the promises that were made in the past while also making sure we create a more transparent structure for the future.

We are very excited to have a contract and start putting our new policies that should have been figured out long ago into practice. As a unit, we were tested on our strength and solidarity, but we came out with an amazing first contract with some real meat on its bones.

Our UFCW 663 Staff Union Logo; designed by Lauren Booth



UNIT UPDATES

Lighthouse Union Solidarity in Face of Layoffs

Lighthouse Union members who work at *Beacon* were very frustrated with the way management rolled out layoffs. Two members of the unit were affected. It took more than a month to settle effects bargaining related to severance and a grievance over not following the timeline outlined in the contract.

One of the members was laid off just before the end of the month and was therefore facing a sudden loss of insurance coverage. The stewards and Guild successfully advocated for an insurance extension.

From the member who was recently laid off:

"Thank you all for everything the Union has been doing on this. The insurance thing was actually a MUCH bigger deal than I thought it was going to be and I would never have had any health insurance this month without Candace and the Union support."

Please share my deepest appreciation to every single person who signed the letter of support for me. The advocacy and solidarity from the Guild staff & my peer union members has really made a difference and meant the world to me. THANK YOU SO MUCH!!"



Guild member runs for City Council

Robyn Gulley (MN AFL-CIO) is running for [West St. Paul City Council](#) as an incumbent.

Especially considering the reduction in local news outlets, attending these meetings are one of the best ways to make political change that you can see! Robyn and a co-council member do their part to recap and share the meeting highlights in 20-30 minute [Facebook videos](#).

COUNTERACTING THE FOUR D'S OF OPPRESSION

(from [The Union of Concerned Scientists](#) and inspired by [Sara Nelson](#), President of AFA-CWA)

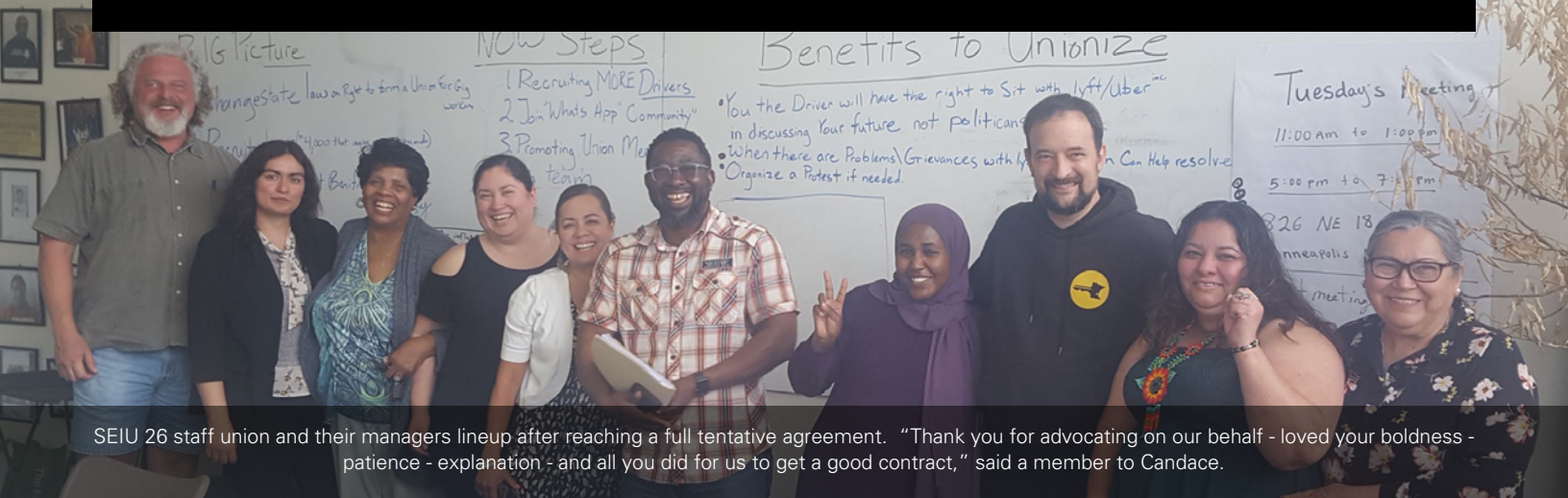
The intent of disinformation is to spread oppression. Be vigilant about the four D's of oppression and respond strategically. When you encounter:

DIVISION—respond with compassion and try conflict resolution

DISTRACTION—focus on the truth

DELAYS—react with organized action

DEMORALIZATION—work on building community and moving beyond silos



SEIU 26 staff union and their managers lineup after reaching a full tentative agreement. "Thank you for advocating on our behalf - loved your boldness - patience - explanation - and all you did for us to get a good contract," said a member to Candace.