



Volume 2 | Issue 10

March 2025

MN GUILD NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

03
19

**CWA Virtual Town Hall:
New Attacks on Our Contracts and Our Rights**
7:00PM CT | Wednesday, March 19th *Virtual*

Discuss the ways these actions could make it more difficult to enforce our contracts and what we can do to protect our rights. [Register here.](#)

03
21

Trans Rights in Minnesota (presented by ACLU-MN)
4:30–7:00PM | Friday, March 21st

St. Paul, [Amherst H. Wilder Foundation](#)

A panel discussion, appetizers, and resources for the trans community and allies. The panel includes Guild members Catherine Ahlin-Halverson (Staff Attorney) and Hailey Bailey (as moderator), among others.

To RSVP, [email Hailey Bailey](#).

03
26

MN Guild Membership Meeting
6:00PM CT | Wednesday, March 26th *Virtual*

The current agenda includes unit updates, a discussion on our executive committee vacancies, and a discussion to send delegates to the TNG Sector Conference and CWA Convention.

You must contact marilyn@mnguild.org to request the meeting packet and receive the Zoom invitation.

03
27

Journalists! Protect Yourself from Online Threats
12:00-1:00PM CT | Thursday, March 27th *Virtual*

Sponsored by NewsGuild of New York and Investigative Reporters and Editors Inc. (IRE), you'll learn how to put up safeguards to protect yourself and how to respond when your work and your safety are threatened. [RSVP here.](#)

04
08

MNGuild Human Rights Committee Meeting
10:00–11:00AM CT | Tuesday, April 8th *Virtual*

[Meet on Zoom](#) Human Rights are at risk every day, and we must fight back. Join us to plan our next events!

HRC: QUEER/TRANS LETTER TO EMPLOYERS DRAFT PARTY

Our bosses must join us in creating welcoming workplaces for people of all gender identities. Help our **Human Rights Committee** draft a message to MNGuild employers that outlines best practices for making queer and transgender workers feel welcome and valued on the job.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4 | 1:00-2:30 PM CT

Join us on [Zoom](#),

[RSVPs highly encouraged!](#)



CAN YOU JOIN US?

FREE BOWLING

THURSDAY, MAY 8 | 5:00-6:00 PM

SUN RAY LANES

Up to 5 Guild members per lane.

[Email Allana](#) before March 26th to claim your spot.

UNIT UPDATES

MN Guild member Fatima Said joins HHS board

By Farah Siddiqi (*Public News Service*)

Hennepin Healthcare has [appointed](#) Somali language interpreter, and member of the MN Guild, Fatima Said as an employee-representative on the board, marking a historic moment for the institution and the Somali community it serves. A longtime union advocate and healthcare interpreter at the hospital, Fatima brings firsthand insight into the challenges faced by marginalized patients.

Her appointment follows controversy over [an August budget](#) meeting where the hospital's board chair allegedly blamed financial losses on care for Somali immigrant patients. The widely shared remarks caused distress among Somali residents and other minority groups, who make up about 75% of Hennepin Healthcare's patients. Simultaneously, Unions representing employees at Hennepin Healthcare met with Hennepin County commissioners asking to expand the composition of the HHS board to include non-physician employee representatives. A resolution calling for that change was passed by the county board, and Fatima was one of two employees appointed to board seats.

Fatima explains that the hospital board chair's statement was merely a public revelation of a deeper issue. She points to systemic neglect, including the reduction of in-person interpreter services, which has deterred many Somali patients from seeking care due to past trauma and distrust of phone-based interpretation.

"This kind of discrimination doesn't happen overnight, it snowballs," Fatima said. "For years, we've seen inadequate care, ignored complaints, and decisions made without representation. That statement in August just exposed what was already happening."

The hospital's slow response initially worsened community trust. As an employee at the time, Fatima recalls the emotional toll of witnessing the community's pain while navigating internal hospital meetings filled with frustration.

"There were days I left meetings crying," she said. "We had to fight just to get people to acknowledge what was happening."



She emphasizes that her role extends beyond representing Somali patients to advocating for all marginalized communities, including Black, Muslim, and female patients.

"This is more than a title," she said. "It's about ensuring that when decisions are made, we are part of the conversation. We are no longer on the menu; we have a seat at the table."

While her appointment marks progress, Fatima stresses that real change requires action and accountability. Many in the community hope her leadership will drive meaningful reforms for equitable healthcare access, regardless of background or immigration status.



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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.

UNIT SOLIDARITY

THROUGH COLLECTIVE ACTION

Last month was busy with employers running amok. Here are some of the actions that MNGuild units took to assert their power:

- Collective letter to the board of directors, signed by the whole unit.
- Labor-Management Committee (LMC) meetings where members spoke truth to power.
- Collected signatures for a petition to demand a fellow member to be reinstated.
- Members reported to HR instances of discrimination and toxic microaggressions.
- Advocacy, support, and representation for members who were unjustly disciplined or fired.

WE ARE THE UNION: Book & Author Interview

Polled MN Guild members reported wanting to learn about labor history and organizing. Well, you're in luck!

The NewsGuild (TNG) hosted CWA-member Eric Blanc for an [interview](#) about his new book, "We Are the Union; How Worker-to-Worker Organizing Is Revitalizing Labor and Winning Big." The book details a riveting account of labor's bottom-up resurgence, providing a roadmap for workers, unions, and social movements to win widely.



Guild members can get **50% off** the book by using promo code **UNION50** when buying through the [University of California Press](#).

Minnesota unions grew by 23,000 members last year

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics recently released its annual report. In 2024, Minnesota's union density increased from 13.3% of the total workforce to 14.2%. Minnesota remains well above the national average of 9.9% that stayed largely flat in 2024.

To see more of the highlights, read the article by Guild member and Treasurer Michael Moore in the [St. Paul Union Advocate](#).

Steve Share: Retired!

Great turnout and many funny and heartfelt speeches for MN Guild member Steve Share (*Labor Review*) at his recent retirement party.

Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey even proclaimed March 12, 2025, as Steve Share Day in the city. A 21 year and 250 issues legacy is an incredible run. Thanks to Steve, for everything he has done to advance the labor movement in Minnesota!



afl-cio^{MINNESOTA} PROTECT PAID LEAVE

IT'S BETTER
— IN A —
Union

Under Attack: Minnesota's Paid Family Medical Leave Act

Minnesota Paid Family Medical Leave Act (PFMLA) has been set to take effect January 1, 2026 but the MN legislature is talking about delaying it another year. The bill allows employees to access up to 20 weeks of partially paid family and medical leave through pooling employer contributions. To read more about the debate at the legislature, check out these articles:

- member [Mike Moen at Public News Service](#) (March 10)
- member [Emma Nelson at Star Tribune](#) (March 6)
- member [Peter Callaghan at MinnPost](#) (March 4)

The NewsGuild (TNG-CWA) joins a joint statement condemning government attacks on press freedom

Posted on February 21, 2025

Fair, accurate, and independent reporting is essential to a functioning democracy. Without it, corruption and misinformation flourish. As organizations that champion journalists and the public's right to know, TNG strongly condemns the campaign underway in Washington to penalize independent reporting on the government and its activities.

To read the full statement, [click here](#).

They also hosted a virtual event on March 4 along with a panel including leaders from the Canadian Media Guild, Unifor, National Writers Union, and the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ). You can [watch the webinar here](#) (password: ^b!58+Fs).

After the event, the IFJ, a global federation of media worker unions, [launched a call for global solidarity](#).

In addition to the nine contracts that expire this year, the MNGuild also has four contract re-openers this fall to negotiate the details related to PFMLA implementation. This law, passed in 2023, is being threatened by two bills and the MN AFL-CIO is [encouraging union members to urge their representatives to defend it](#).

Lifetime Achievement Award: Randy Furst



On March 11th, Minnesota Star Tribune reporter Randy Furst, who recently retired after a 52-year career, was awarded the John Borger Lifetime Achievement Award.

According to Minnesotans for Open Government (formerly MNCOGI), "Furst has been a fierce defender of the First Amendment and government

transparency. He has a long track record of using the state's public records law to shine light on government wrongdoing. That includes two years' worth of reporting that revealed a now defunct Metro Gang Strike Force was engaging in questionable or illegal activity. He has also been a champion for the First Amendment, leading numerous efforts to protect journalists."

Randy Furst is pictured here with MN Guild member and chair of Minnesotans for Open Government, MaryJo Webster (*Star Tribune*).