



Volume 2 | Issue 11

April 2025

MN GUILD NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

04
22

TNG Steward Training: Collective Action!

Tuesday, April 22 | 6:00PM CT *Virtual*

[Register Here](#). Attendees will review how stewards turn workplace issues into organizing issues and then practice planning and evaluating collective action.

05
01

UNITY RALLY

March and Rally for Immigrants and Workers!

Thursday, May 1 | 4:30PM *MN State Capitol (St. Paul)*

Take action along with 100+ cities across the nation to build a better world. They are also looking for people to be marshals—training provided. [Contact Todd Dahlstrom](#) (MN AFL-CIO) if you can help.

05
14

CWA HRC Environmental Justice Training

May 14, 15, or 16 *CWA 7200 Union Hall*

3521 E. Lake St., Minneapolis, MN 55406

This full-day in-person training will cover foundations of environment, climate, and climate change; historical and present-day environmental injustices; and planning the necessary actions and strategies to achieve environmental justice in our union and community. Lost time, breakfast/lunch, and mileage provided.

[Register here](#). (Your local number is 37002.)

NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

MAY

2025

STOP THE BILLIONAIRE TAKEOVER

MN STATE CAPITOL, ST PAUL

UNITY RALLY

THURSDAY, MAY 1 | 4:30PM

Join MNGuild members from SEIU Local 26,

UNITE HERE Local 17, TakeAction MN, MN AFL-CIO,

UFCW 663 and others in a [week of rallies and pickets](#)

for working families.

Together, we will not let billionaires win. During the week of April 26th–May 3rd, Minnesota organizations representing thousands of workers and community members will bring their fights for what WE deserve to the streets. On May 1st, we will collectively rally at the capitol to march for workers and immigrants!





CANDACE RESIGNS FROM MN GUILD

By Candace Lund (MN Guild)

I announced at the March membership meeting that I will be leaving employment at the MN Guild in early September 2025.

It has been a privilege to work for you.

No, I am not retiring (I'm not as old as I look), and I don't know what I will do next for employment. The ten years I have been the Executive Officer of the MN Guild have been the longest I have worked anywhere, and my internal clock tells me it is time to add something new to the list of my varied careers, and time for someone else with a new perspective to have this job.

Thank you to everyone who has served as an officer or executive member of the MN Guild, a unit leader, a steward, organizing committee, or a negotiations committee member. I learned about the labor movement as a member who became involved in my local union, and I recognize that member activists are the experts in their workplaces. I appreciate those who volunteer their time and energy on behalf of their coworkers because your efforts have built a strong union that will continue to grow. Special gratitude to the three presidents who have served during my tenure: Janet Moore (*Star Tribune*), Kelly Blaiser (*Pioneer Press*), and Nick Woltman (*Pioneer Press*).

You'll have my great coworkers, Marilyn Clements and Allana Olson, to pass institutional knowledge to the person who replaces me. I'm leaving but the MN Guild still has dedicated leaders, a similar number of members as when I was hired in 2014 (although now in twenty-eight units instead of around ten), and money in the bank and in CDs.

I am happy to meet and discuss the work with anyone interested in applying for the job. candace@mnguild.org

ADAPTED FROM **LABOR NOTES: SECRETS OF A SUCCESSFUL ORGANIZER**

PORTRAIT OF A WELL-ORGANIZED WORKPLACE

The union is visible to members and management every day.

- **Face-to-face visits.** Stewards are known faces in the workplace. They have relationships with all members, not just leaders.
- **Complete coverage.** There is a union representative for every department and a regularly updated, widely available member list.
- **Lively meetings.** Membership meetings are regular and well attended.
- **New hires join.** A union representative meets every new employee.
- **Word gets around.** There is regular communication through newsletters, digital or physical bulletin boards, and a member-to-member network.

We defend our standards and enforce our contracts.

- **We know our rights.** The contract is widely available.
- **Action is the norm.** Members use collective action; Grievances are not our primary line of defense.
- **Stewards do it.** Stewards are trained and empowered to resolve issues.
- **Management knows it.** Managers do not act unilaterally or abusively; they know they will face opposition.

Members own the union.

- **Confidence.** Members feel that their union is strong and can resolve problems.
- **Easy access.** Through stewards, members have immediate access to resources to resolve problems.
- **Participation.** Members participate in negotiations and union-wide programs and campaigns.
- **Pride.** Members are glad they belong to the union. Social events are well attended.

UNIT UPDATES

Strib Guild wins historic raises in contract extension

By Kelly Smith (*Star Tribune*)

The Star Tribune Guild won historic 4% raises in both 2025 and 2026 as the result of a two-year contract extension the unit overwhelmingly approved in March.

The raises are the largest pay increases in more than 25 years for the unit, which represents more than 200 employees in the newsroom, editorial, circulation, and promotions departments.

Last December, Star Tribune management presented the idea of a short-term contract extension instead of entering full negotiations over a new three-year contract this spring, citing that full negotiations are resource-intensive.

Unit leaders held four hybrid input meetings to gather extensive feedback from Guild members about the contract extension and organized an anonymous in-depth survey to gauge members' feedback on contract improvements they wanted to see and other workplace issues. A majority of the 200+ members either attended input meetings or responded to the survey.

After some negotiations with management over the details, Guild members overwhelmingly voted in support of the 22-month contract extension, with 86% voter turnout. Besides the pay raises, the rest of the contract remains unchanged, expiring April 30, 2027.

Great sports editors honored with AP Grand Slam, other top honors

This year, the Minnesota Star Tribune took home the Associated Press Grand Slam award for top national sports journalism, in the same class as other winners the Washington Post and Boston Globe. The Star Tribune also won Grand Slam honors in 2016 and 2022.

Individual MN Guild members also received awards including Chip Scoggins, Amanda Anderson, Ben Goessling, Andrew Krammer, Bob Timmons, Carlos Gonzalez, and Alex Kormann (*Star Tribune*). [Find the full article here.](#)

We're going to court.

Trump's March 14th executive order forced thousands of USAGM journalists—**represented by TNG-CWA, AFSCME, AFGE, and AFSA**—off the job. Voice of America, Radio Free Asia and other newsrooms reach more than 400 million people daily, a testament to their international importance.

By suspending employees and contractors and halting Congressionally-mandated work, the administration violated the Constitution and overstepped its authority. The shutdown of these newsrooms targets our members and threatens press freedom. We won't stand by.

Today, we joined a lawsuit challenging the illegal shutdown of the U.S. Agency for Global Media.



THE NEWSGUILD
COMMUNICATIONS
WORKERS OF AMERICA

WANTED: Minneapolis Labor Delegate

Live in the west-metro and want more ways to engage with other unions? We have an open seat at the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation's (MRLF) monthly delegate meetings.

Hear the latest updates from other unions, and vote on MRLF's political endorsements.

Meets monthly on the second Wednesday at 6:00 PM. Usually virtual but in person at the Minneapolis Labor Center once per quarter. [Contact Allana](#) for more info.

A benefit concert for Burl "Wiggy" Gilyard

June 1
2-6 p.m.

Hook &
Ladder
Theater
& Lounge

Gig 4 Wig!
The Belfast Cowboys
Trailer Trash
ElNo

Besides being a longtime Twin Cities writer, Burl Gilyard (*Star Tribune*) is also a huge local music fan.

Since last fall, a series of medical issues have set him back and kept him off the job. Join local bands **Trailer Trash**, **ElNo**, and the **Belfast Cowboys** in a fundraiser to help off-set the ongoing medical expenses.

SUNDAY, JUNE 1 | 2:00-6:00 PM
at **The Hook and Ladder, Minneapolis**

SPRING 2025 COMMUNITY CLASSES

**DEEPENING OUR SOLIDARITY: LABOR & DISABILITY
JUSTICE**

APRIL 29, MAY 13, AND MAY 27, 6:30-8:00 PM CT

GRIEVANCE ARBITRATION

JUNE 4, 1:00-4:00 PM CT

Register at:

<https://z.umn.edu/LESCommunityClassesSpring2025>



UNIT UPDATES

UNITE HERE Local 17 staff approve contract extension

In the past few years, organizers at UNITE HERE Local 17 have had increased turfs, expanded scope and collaboration internally and externally, and supported a growing membership. They have also ushered in first of their kind strike votes and won new shops in many different organizing spaces.

They were also at the lower end of the pay scale compared to their peers in this industry.

When management suggested a one-year contract extension, the staff union knew what they were worth, knew what the organization could afford, and named it. Management agreed to two \$1.00 per hour wage increases for all staff in 2025 and a new expiration date of April 30, 2026.



Stacie Balkaran (*Minneapolis Labor Review*) and Michael Moore (*St. Paul Union Advocate*) met for the first time at Steve Share's retirement party, dressed like twins.

**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.