



Volume 3 | Issue 2

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MN GUILD NEWSLETTER

Why some towns lose local news — and others don't

Since 2005, the United States has lost over one-third of its local newspapers, contributing to political polarization and corruption.

A new study identified five factors during that highly volatile period of 2004-2018 that most impact news sustainability.

A positive but perhaps surprising factor is having a news-rich environment. "Rather than competing, neighboring papers often become allies, sharing breaking news, splitting investigative costs and attracting advertisers who want regional reach," researcher Abby Youran Qin reported. You can read the summary or full paper at [Nieman Journalism Lab.org](https://niemanlab.org).

Legal Advice re: ICE Agents

CWA (Communications Workers of America) members have shared urgent concerns regarding ICE agents seeking access to worksites and employer actions related thereto. The CWA Legal Department has provided the following guidance for Local officers and members: https://cwa-union.org/cwa_ice_guidance

UPCOMING EVENTS

07/19 **MASSACRE AT FLOUR CITY! The Deadly Battle over Labor Rights in the Streets of Seward, Summer of 1935**
Saturdays July 12th, 19th, 26th | 11:00AM-9:00PM CT
Ivy Arts Building, Minneapolis. See [page 3](#) for more info.

08/07 **Holding Space: Tools and Discussion for Movement Work Amidst Violence and Crisis**
Thursday, August 7th | 10:00-12:00PM or 3:00-5:00PM CT
(Lunch/dinner optional) In-Person in Minneapolis, MN / Virtually on Zoom
Activists, leaders, organizers and teams have remained engaged in their work while also responding to escalating and compounding crises, including direct political violence. This space is to practice the tools and strategies necessary for our individual and collective well-being so we can stay grounded and committed together. [Early registration highly encouraged!](#)

09/07 **MNGuild's Third Annual Picnic**
Sunday September 7th | 11:00AM-2:00PM CT *Minnehaha Park*
Potluck, tug-o-war, prize drawing, team trivia and kids games. Bring your families! [Let us know if you can come!](#)



Good and Welfare

Brother David LaVaque (*Star Tribune*), guild member and single father, is facing a difficult medical diagnosis and rising medical costs. If you'd like to offer support, his daughter has set up a [GoFundMe](#).

YOU ARE THE UNION. A UNION IS ONLY AS STRONG, EFFECTIVE, AND POWERFUL AS THE MEMBERS WHO PARTICIPATE IN ITS OPERATION AND ACTIVITIES.

UNIT UPDATES

26 members accept buyout at Strib

By Kelly Smith (*Star Tribune*)

The Minnesota Star Tribune announced in June that it was offering buyouts for Guild and non-Guild employees (those whose age plus years of service equaled at least 65). About half of the unit's 200 members were eligible. The Guild confirmed that 26 Guild members, 24 of whom work in the newsroom, accepted the buyouts, roughly a quarter of the total members eligible for the voluntary program. They represent an extraordinary 751 years of combined service to the Star Tribune, contributing so much to the company and Guild over the years. It's the most buyouts the Star Tribune has had in at least 15 years. The last voluntary buyouts were offered in 2015 to seven Guild members.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE

Paid Medical and Family Leave is coming to Minnesota—and all workers deserve to understand what it means for them.

Minnesota Training Partnership has created short, accessible videos in multiple languages to help you and your coworkers learn about your rights at work when it comes to pregnancy, parenting, and Paid Leave. Whether you're a worker or a union steward, these tools make it easy to spread the word.

[Watch the videos and share them today.](#)



Photo by Mark Brunswick (*Star Tribune* retiree)

Memorial for **Mike Kaszuba**, a 35-year reporter for the Star Tribune and longtime Guild unit leader, will take place
Saturday, July 26 2:00-4:00PM
at Harriet Brasserie in Linden Hills.
Casual dress, Hawaiian shirts encouraged.

Mike Kaszuba stood firm for justice and Guild when we needed it most

By Janet Moore (*Star Tribune*, retired)

Mike Kaszuba, 71, a former reporter and NewsGuild leader at the Minnesota Star Tribune died of acute pancreatitis in June.

While Mike was a fearless journalist covering local, county and state government throughout his 35-year career at the Strib, I knew him best as an unwavering supporter of the union.

Mike served on several bargaining committees when times were tough financially at the paper – he was steady and smart. He also served as unit chair

of the Star Tribune Guild and was a member of the Local's executive committee before taking a buyout in 2015.

I can't even fathom how we would have made it through those dire years without Mike's steady guidance. He fearlessly called out management's folly in negotiations – the very same people who signed his paycheck. This native of Chicago's South Side never once backed down.

I'm so proud to have worked with him on behalf of our members, but I was also lucky to call Mike my friend. Despite his gruff exterior, Mike really was a tender-hearted soul, a devoted family man and husband. His death is still raw and unfathomable to me, but I do take solace that he served our union well and was proud to do so. Rest easy, brother.

Minneapolis is a union town; labor battle honored after 100 years

By Nick Woltman (*Pioneer Press*)

A new multimedia history exhibit co-produced by Guild member Kevin Brown explores the bloody 1935 Flour City Ornamental Iron strike, which ended with Minneapolis police opening fire on the pickets, killing two bystanders and leaving several people injured.

The strike began when the owner of Flour City refused to bargain with his newly organized workforce, and escalated when he hired scabs to fill their jobs. After the shooting, Gov. Floyd Olson temporarily closed the plant, and the owner—though he refused to recognize the union—agreed to wage increases, a forty-hour week and overtime, according to the Minnesota Historical Society.

Opening Saturday at Vine Arts Center Art Gallery in Minneapolis, “Massacre at Flour City” uses photos, newspaper clippings, maps and first-hand accounts to tell the story of the months long strike that “convulsed” the Seward neighborhood, according to a press release.

The gallery is appropriately located on the second floor of the Ivy Arts Building at 2637 27th Ave. – the former home of Flour City Ornamental Iron.

The five-panel exhibit, which measures 15 feet by 7 feet, celebrated it’s opening day on July 12th. It will also be open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on July 19 and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on July 26, when it closes.

Brown, who works at Smart Set printing in Minneapolis, collaborated with Marilyn Matheny of the Seward History Committee and Tom Beer of the Farmer-Labor Education Committee to create the exhibit.

MASSACRE AT FLOUR CITY
THE DEADLY BATTLE OVER LABOR RIGHTS IN THE STREETS OF SEWARD, SUMMER OF 1935.

THE MINNEAPOLIS TRIBUNE
MORNING EDITION
Two Shot to Death, 28 Injured When Police and Pickets Battle

SATURDAY JULY 12 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM	SATURDAY JULY 19 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM	SATURDAY JULY 26 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM
OPENING: 1:00: History Q&A: Seward History Committee 3:00: Talk: Unearthing the story of the Flour City Victims 5:00: Opening Day Party, Wine, cheese and tribute to Dick Westby 6:00: CONCERT BY LARRY LONG	1:00: Talk: Are We Really Living in the Hub of Hell? 3:00: Panel: Workers and Bosses: What Caused the Riots?	CLOSING: 1:00: Talk: Flour City Ornamental Iron to Ivy Arts: 1902-2025 3:00: Panel: Minneapolis in the 1930s: Hard Times 5:00: Closing Night Party, Beer, peanuts, and conversation 6:00: CONCERT BY TWIN CITIES LABOR CHORUS

vine arts center
2637 27TH AVE S, MPLS, MN 55406
WWW.VINEARTSCENTER.ORG
f VINEARTSCENTER

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SN, Minnesota State Retirees Council, SMART SET, MRRC, Community Foundation

He sings where we are, about what is happening. He takes the real sound, the real words and gives us back our songs and we hear what singers we all are and how beautiful, and how strong.
—Meridel Le Sueur, American Author & Poet

We are an active chorus that is dedicated to building the Labor and Social Justice Movements one song at a time. We sing at marches, picket lines, at union events, and anywhere else our message and voices can be heard.

This exhibit is being held at the exact building that housed Flour City Ornamental Iron Works, now called the Ivy Arts Building.

WE MEAN BUSINESS:

Trans, Intersex, and Nonbinary (TIN) Survey

Our Human Rights Committee is working on a letter-writing project to make better workplaces for our TIN coworkers. We are collecting member-provided, anonymous data to better understand their workplace experiences and knowledge so that we can write a letter that addresses real hurdles. In under 5 minutes, you can help to make all our workplaces better. Can we count on you to fill out [the survey](#)?