



Vol 3 | Issue 6

November 2025

MN GUILD NEWSLETTER

Photo by Kameron Herndon. Courtesy Walker Art Center.

UPCOMING EVENTS



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Nonviolent Direct Action Training MN AFL-CIO

4:00-8:00 PM | Sunday, November 16th *Bloomington*

Build and practice key skills for safe, fun, and effective direct actions and learn what makes direct actions successful. Free food, beverages, and interpretation provided. [Register](#) for exact location.

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UNION Film Screening TriLingua Cinema

7:00PM | Thursday, November 20th *East Side Freedom Library, St. Paul*

Free screening of the powerful, award-winning documentary, about the efforts of Amazon warehouse to organize a union. [Get a ticket](#) or just show up.

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20

Give to the Max Day

On or before Thursday, November 20th *Virtual*

[Donate](#) to your favorite [union nonprofits](#) at this annual Minnesota event that has helped to raise over \$400 million since its inception.

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22

Choreographer's Evening 2025

4:00-7:30 PM | Saturday, November 22nd *Walker Art Center, Mpls.*

The Walker's annual dance showcase. This year's program is curated by dancer/choreographer and unit steward Benny Olk (*Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative*). Tickets \$20-40, [order here](#).

12
03

Red Cross Blood Drive St. Paul Labor Studies and Resource Center

12:00-6:00 PM | Wednesday, December 3rd *St. Paul*

The need is critical and members just like you have received life-saving blood donations this year. Share the gift of life. [Register for a time slot](#).

COMING SOON: Unit elections **Are you ready to take the next step for your union?**

A strong union is made of engaged members who help each other face challenges together, grow new skills, and split the duties that help it run.

Before the Annual (January) membership meeting on even years, each unit is required to elect representatives for their unit ([Bylaws article 8](#)). Typically, this means electing your steward(s) but may include more roles like secretary, LMC chairs, or grievance committee.

Allana will reach out soon to help coordinate your elections.



Office swoons with visit from MN Guild President's fur baby

Nick Woltman (*Pioneer Press*) brought his new puppy Echo for a visit to the office. — We would be happy to add more dogs to our rolodex.

SOLIDARITY FIELD TRIP

On November 5, MN Guild members and staff supported other unions on their picket lines.

Great turnout HCMC Language Interpreters, MN AFL-CIO, and staff at SEIU 26 and UNITEHERE 17!

We stopped by HCMC to support the AFSCME 2474 rally for a fair contract in their upcoming negotiation sessions. AFSCME 2474 represents public-facing support staff and is one of several unions at HCMC.

The MN Guild's language interpreters at HCMC are set to negotiate next year's wage increases this winter. If AFSCME is able to secure a good wage increase, our unit is hopeful that we can win matching raises.



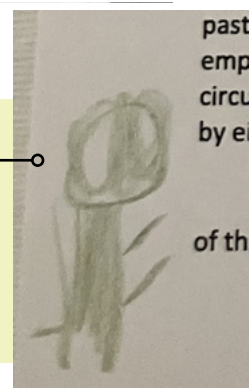
We also visited the Doctors Council's historic one-day strike against Allina Health on Wednesday. This marks the first time doctors have gone on strike in Minnesota.

Many of the doctors on the picket line, who have been negotiating their first contract for almost two years, expressed gratitude and excitement for the great turnout. It really means a lot when strangers show up for your cause, especially when you are doing something risky and new. We hope the solidarity spreads.



A former member's happy ending:

"Please find attached my signed copy of the agreement, and please excuse my grandson's drawing on the first page. I don't think his artwork would hold up in court anyway. And please accept my sincere gratitude for arranging this outcome."



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.

HEALTHCARE SPLITS ACROSS UNITS

Healthcare premiums are in the news a lot lately with most people and workplaces experiencing unprecedented spikes related to the expiration of the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) government subsidies.

We compared how different workers are feeling the impact based on contract language that was won at the bargaining table. Our two big takeaways:

1. Seven of our units get 100% of their employee-only health insurance premium covered by the employer. These units cover several industries including union staff, nonprofits, and a print shop (go Smart Set!)
2. Among unit premiums that are easy to compare (sample size 20), Minnesota Guild mcontracts require the employer to pay an average of 89% for employee-only coverage and 72% for dependent or family coverage. Still, Employee Plus coverage varies widely between no split and fully paid.

Being in a union allows you to collectively negotiate for better benefits. Also, every unit's priorities are different and that leads us to 28 very different contracts. While that is challenging to manage, it's also rewarding knowing that each unit and member played a role.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Groundbreaking Advocate and Architect of Workers' Rights: Frances Perkins

By Betsy Burns (*Clean Water Action MN*)

Frances Perkins' legacy should be taught with the rest of the heroes who fought for the rights of workers in the US. In spite of being a woman in the early part of the 20th century, and just thirteen years after white women were granted the right to vote, Perkins was the first woman ever to serve in a Presidential Cabinet.

During her tenure, Perkins drafted the resolution that became the 1935 Social Security Act; the Act included the creation of Unemployment Insurance. (AFLCIO.ORG) She was a constant voice in the ear of the president, guiding him through necessary changes and advancements that workers deserved and needed.

dowsills and take the women's hands, one by one, adding the last bit of dignity to the workers' leap to death. For Perkins, the tragedy was "seared on my mind as well as my heart—a never-to-be-forgotten reminder of why I had to spend my life fighting conditions that could permit such a tragedy."

The horror of the needless deaths spurred on her activism and struggles for workers' rights. Jacob Riis' *How the Other Half Lives*, a book of photojournalism revealing the realities of devastating poverty in the New York slums, proved to Perkins the urgency to advocate for all humans. She doubled down on factory inspections, fought for minimum wage, and reduced women's work week to 48 hours. (Although Perkins tried, she was unable to get FDR to enact a plan for Universal Healthcare.)

Her passions and humanity led Perkins to alter the course of workers' rights within perilous factory conditions, and throughout the country fortified the growth and strength of unions.

For more information on the life and work of Frances Perkins, see the aflcio.org and read [The Woman Behind the New Deal: The Life and Legacy of Frances Perkins](#) by Kirstin Downey (Anchor Books, 2009).

