



Volume 3 | Issue 8

January 2026

MN GUILD NEWSLETTER

ICE OUT OF MN

A DAY OF TRUTH & FREEDOM

NO WORK. NO SCHOOL. NO SHOPPING.

JAN 23

**MARCH IN
DOWNTOWN MPLS
AT 2PM**

UPCOMING EVENTS

01
21

MN Guild Annual Membership Meeting

6:00PM CST | Wednesday, January 21st *Virtual*

All members are encouraged to attend! [Register here](#).

Meeting Agenda:

1. Review of annual audit (Discussion)
2. Upcoming Trainings/ Conferences; vote on member participation (Action items)
 - a. AFL-CIO Organizing Institute, (Dates TBD) Bloomington, MN
 - b. CWA District 7 Conference: May 3-5, Salt Lake City, UT
 - c. National AFL-CIO Convention: June 7-10, Minneapolis, MN
 - d. Labor Notes 2026 Conference: June 12-14, Chicago, IL

01
23

Day of Action: ICE out of MN

2:00PM Minneapolis | Friday, January 23rd *Statewide*

Faith, labor, and community leaders are calling for a day of "No School, No Work, No Shopping" to protest recent ICE activity in Minnesota. The Guild encourages members to participate in any activity that is consistent with their values and professional obligations.

Guild journalists shine light on truth in dark times

Minnesota NewsGuild members are the eyes and ears for our community. In an age of AI slop, disinformation, and outright lies, journalists are on the front lines for all of us, dispelling false narratives and holding the powerful to account.

Guild members tell the stories that are painful to hear and share photos that we cannot look away from. The facts speak for themselves: we are in dark times.

Robert Frost wrote, "The only way out is through." We will get through this together with the strongest tool at our disposal: solidarity with each other, in defense of the truth.

— Debbie Prokopf, Executive Officer



Check-in: Has ICE activity impeded on your ability to work? Your safety? Your family?

If you feel the need, [tell us your story](#). As your local, we want to ensure that we are supporting our membership to the best of our capacity. Take care.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

01
22

Solidarity Action Fellowship (SAF) ★★ ★

January 22nd & March 26th... [Register Here](#)

Build skills in organizing and try them out in five core sessions, two field experiences, and a final capstone. For rank-and-file and pro-labor partners.

Two cohorts:

1. January-March Thursdays 5:00-7:30pm; or
2. March-May Thursdays 2:00-4:30pm

Meetings are in-person in/around Minneapolis.

01
28

History and Organizing Tactics of the Labor Movement

January 28th | 6:30–8:00PM [Register Here](#)

Explore The Labor Movement, looking at declines and its consequences on the quality of life for working people. As new generations are breathing new life into the labor movement, what can they and we, learn from history to have an impact on the present and build a better future?

- American Revolution to WWII;
4 Mondays beginning Jan 28th | 6:30-8:00PM
- Post-WWII to the Present;
4 Mondays beginning Mar 2nd | 6:30-8:00PM

Presented by St. Paul Community Education. Meets in St. Paul. \$12 each series.

02
05

Bargaining (and Organizing!) for the Common Good

7:00–8:30PM CST | Thursday, February 5th [Zoom link](#)

The basic principles: Center racial justice; Engage community partners; Expand the unions' scope beyond economic demands; Expose the bad actors; Strengthen internal organization, mobilization and membership engagement. Learn and brainstorm ways to improve your work. Presented by CWA District 7.

DID YOU MOVE?
Now's the time to let us know!

Reach out to [Allana](#) with your new home address – we'll be mailing out our annual report **with a special insert** early in the new year.



On January 14th, the MN Guild sent a letter to the employers of our members requesting transparency and to continue to support workers if detained by ICE.



REEL STORIES: LABOR IN FILM

ALL SCREENINGS AT EAST SIDE FREEDOM LIBRARY: 1105 GREENBRIER ST. SAINT PAUL, MN, \$5105



JAN. 15
6:00 PM

FEB. 19
6:00 PM

MAR. 19
6:00 PM



FIND OUT MORE AT
TRILINGUACINEMA.ORG



Who can apply?

- Active union members
- Community nonprofit partners
- Worker center partners

Why should you apply?

- Intentional time to be in community with others who care about building a pro-worker future
- Develop your skills
- Grow your professional network
- Be recognized

Evening Cohort: Meets Jan–Mar
Thursdays 5:00–7:30pm; or

Day Cohort: Meets Mar–May
Thursdays 2:00–4:30pm

Presented by the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation (MRLF).

★ [Register here.](#) ★

UNIT UPDATE

We've come a long way; MN Council of Nonprofits signs second contract

This was one of the last remaining first contracts left since the COVID-era growth we experienced under Organizer Rica Highers. It was MCN's first experience with Interest-Based Bargaining, a non-traditional and more collaborative way to negotiate a union agreement. Negotiations were facilitated by mediator, Sandi Blaeser from the Bureau of Mediation Services (BMS). BMS has recently expanded their scope of services since the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Services (FMCS) has been gutted by the Trump Administration.

The unit negotiated great gains including expanding the scope of the bargaining unit to include four more employees, language that secures paid time for union business, and 100% wage replacement for all approved instances of new Paid Family Medical Leave with no premium costs.

Effects bargaining for PFML

Over the past couple of months, our local's staff helped members at nearly two dozen units negotiate contract language to cover Minnesota's new Paid Family Medical Leave (PFML) law, which took effect Jan. 1.

Some units won language that requires their employer to pay 100% of annual premiums, while others will now receive 100% of their weekly salary during leave. Some won both!

This was also a great opportunity for executive officer Debbie Prokopf to get acquainted with many different units and employers after joining our staff in August.

GOOD LUCK!
to the union at Beacon
on their upcoming
contract negotiations!



YOU HAVE TO BE SCARED IN ORDER TO BE COURAGEOUS WE DO NOT FIND COURAGE AND BRAVERY ALONE;
WE FIND THEM UNITED WITH OTHERS.

What has been giving you hope? [Email us.](#)

