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MN GUILD NEWSLETTER

ACT NOW: SIGN THE PETITION

[Sign here](#) to demand a Guild member's release from ICE detention.

If you have the capacity, [please donate here](#) in support of his family and their efforts to bring him home.



UNIT UPDATES

Federal immigration agents terrorize Minnesotans

Operation Metro Surge, which began in December 2025, has made an indelible impact on our community and our union. As masked, unidentifiable federal agents sweep up citizens and noncitizens alike, public observers and protesters continue to exercise their constitutional rights in opposition.

Since most of our members are Twin Cities based, this operation has had a huge effect on many facets of our personal and professional lives. Members, facing attacks on their personal safety, are insisting on workplace policies that match their values and mobilizing support for the people they serve. Virtually every workplace has faced some sort of interruption to daily operations, likely to include pervasive anxiety and dread.

We are featuring some highlights about how several different workplaces are affected or meeting the moment:

Smart Set is printing posters, red cards, stickers, and other resources, offered alongside community safety gear. All available for free at their storefront.

ACLU of Minnesota offered Know your Rights trainings and resources; [sued the federal government](#) over suspicionless stops, warrantless arrests, and racial profiling.

At **Minnpost**, the Guild negotiated for \$100 per person to spend on respirators, goggles, and other safety gear during field reporting. Workers also won an additional eight hours of comp time for selfcare or community support.



Ngoc Doan (Smart Set) at the free resource table.



Santiago Morgan (HHS Interpreter unit chair), along with other Hennepin Healthcare unions, spoke at the Unity Rally on January 23rd.



Looking for a way to donate to Minnesotan working families affected by Operation Metro Surge?

We suggest [Working Partnerships' Respond and Rebuild Communities campaign](#).

OR

[UNITE HERE Local #17 Hardship Fund's](#) fund.

UNITE HERE's members have been hit particularly hard because they represent hotel staff and restaurant workers.

HHS language interpreters have witnessed many patients missing appointments and forgoing health care. ICE agents have been at the bedside of some patients, raising HIPAA concerns and [putting staff on edge](#). A coalition of unions hosted a rally outside in the bitter cold before the day's big march.

Some **CTUL** staff pivoted to work from home while others have been driving members to work every day. Priorities shifted to support affected members, including [Guild steward Eustaquio Orozco Verduesco](#) who has been in ICE custody since January 9th. [Please sign the petition](#) to bring him home.

Clean Water Action field canvassers reported safety concerns after witnessing ICE raids and the general unwillingness of community members to answer their door. They were put on two-week furlough funded by sick-time donations and later offered working as a phone canvasser or unemployment until it is safe and appropriate to return to work.

Some of our **journalists** report having received death threats and doxxing as retaliation for shining a light on ICE's activities. At least one member reports being tear-gassed while covering a protest.

Our **union** members have supported their community with [packages of food](#) and rides for those who are too afraid to leave their homes without a trusted escort. They've helped to organize ICE Out protests including the [January 23rd Day of Truth and Freedom](#), whose explicit goals were a day with "no work, no school, no shopping".

To your newsroom, with care

Newsrooms across the country have sent care packages to the Star Tribune newsroom to support Guild members working long days and weeks reporting on federal immigration enforcement in Minnesota. Chicago Tribune, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Syracuse Post-Standard and Houston Chronicle are among the newsrooms that have sent pizzas, snacks, and doughnuts.

The Strib Guild has also received financial donations from members at Seattle Times, Wirecutter, Badger Herald, KJZZ Frontera Desk, and Wisconsin Watch, among others. Small Business reporter Dee DePass said in a statement, "It's been stressful here [but] it's nice to know someone has our back during these crazy times."

Strib Guild members received similar support in 2020 – and have done the same for other newsrooms at the center of big national news, including fundraising to support LA Times journalists affected by the wildfires in 2025 and sending care packages to the Orlando Sentinel in 2016, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette in 2018, Denver Post in 2018, and Courier Journal in Louisville in 2020.

UPCOMING EVENTS

02 19 Inside Organize School

Thursday, February 19th OR Saturday, February 21st

Learn how organize workplaces from the inside (called "SALTing"). This is a one-day, all-day training in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area.

Exact time and location will be revealed after students [register](#).

02 22 Nonviolent Direct-Action Training

1:00–5:00 PM | Sunday, February 22nd [Saint Paul](#)

1:00–5:00 PM | Sunday, March 1st [Burnsville](#)

The Minnesota Democracy Defense Table, a statewide coalition of more than 60 pro-democracy organizations, has trained nearly 2,000 Minnesotans in action preparation and roles since December. This free training includes real-life simulations and builds specific skills, such as rapid response, peacekeeping, protest safety, and civil disobedience. Questions? Contact Debbie at 651-764-8453 or debbie@mnguild.org.

02 28 Live Music by Robert Everest (HHS Interpreter)

11:30 AM–1:00 PM | Saturday, February 28th & Sunday, March 1st
[Maria's Cafe](#), South Minneapolis

Enjoy brunch and listen to free world music! You can hear a sample [here](#).

03 26 MN Guild Membership Meeting

6:00 PM CT | Wednesday, March 26th Virtual

Agenda includes an important vote about updating the Bylaws.

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

NEWS GUILD STEWARD TRAINING

For all experience levels. Each module focuses on different core steward roles.

Every other Thursday

February 18th – April 30th

7:30-9:30PM CST.

Virtual and free.

[Register for each session separately.](#)

CASH (\$) FOR COLLEGE

CWA Joe Beirne Scholarship

Did you know that CWA National offers partial college scholarships, named after a former MN Guild member?

CWA members, their spouses, children and grandchildren, including the dependents of retired, laid-off, or deceased members can apply for one of 16 partial college scholarships (\$4,000 each for 2 years). Winners are drawn randomly from among eligible applicants. To find out more and apply go to:

www.cwa.org/beirne

Final deadline for the 2026-2027 school year is **April 30, 2026** at 10:59 p.m. CDT.