



Volume 3 | Issue 11

April 2026

MN GUILD NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

04
16

One-on-one Organizing Conversations *CWA District 7*

7:00-8:15 PM CST | Thursday, April 16th *Virtual*

1-on-1s are an essential tool of organizers and surprisingly challenging to do well. Get trained or refresh your skills. [Zoom link](#).

04
24

American Carnage, a staged reading

7:00 PM | Friday, April 24th *Playwrights' Center, St. Paul*

Watch brother James Rodriguez (*Clean Water Action*) perform in an exciting new play. *American Carnage* is part allegory - part Looney Tunes Dada. It's an exploration of Mexican and familial history that speaks with humor and tenderness about the darkest parts of history playing out in plain sight. Free, [reserve your spot](#).

MSP Independent Film Festival

Tickets are \$10-\$17. *Main Cinema, Minneapolis*.

Check out these press-freedom documentaries:

04
17

Seized | 94 min

Friday, April 17th at 4:45 PM

When Marion, Kansas, is thrust into the international spotlight after a police raid on the Marion County Record and the death of its 98-year-old co-owner, a fierce debate ignites about abuse of power, journalism, and the U.S. Constitution. Enraging, humorous and hopeful.

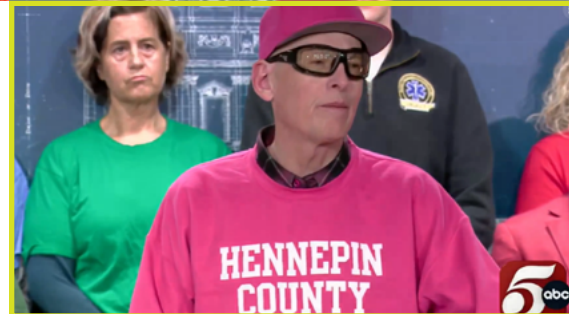
04
18

Escalation* | 36 min

Saturday, April 18th at 11:00 AM *and panel discussion*

A data-driven nonfiction short film documenting the surge of U.S. incidents where law enforcement have targeted journalists since May 25, 2020. In this film, more than a dozen journalists from across the US tell their own stories.

* Featuring former MN Guild/Strib Guild members Chris Serres, Andy Mannix, and Mark Vancleave.



HCMC Interpreters Unit Chair Santiago Morgan joined other union leaders, in the press at the state capitol. For updates and actions on behalf of HCMC, [jump to page 2](#).



James Rodriguez



Seized



Escalation



UNIT UPDATES

Unions call for urgency, transparency as HCMC teeters on the brink

We're closely watching the rapid changes at HCMC and rallying together to save a critical state resource.

In the news: Both interim co-administrators resigned after disagreements with the Commissioners. Another CEO is already in place. ([Snowbeck: Star Tribune.](#))

In the union: Our interpreter members are showing up! In coalition with other unions at the hospital, our members attended a Day on the Hill event (March 24) and spoke at a press conference (April 1). Unit Chair Santiago Morgan joined other union leaders, in the press at the state capitol. He spoke of HCMC as a critical pillar of Minnesota's emergency and trauma system, how its closing would overwhelm emergency care across the Twin Cities, and how it is a statewide resource that offers essential safety-net care.

We're grateful this coalition of HCMC unions has been meeting regularly for years because it puts us in a great place to pool our resources and sync messaging. We need to stay in lockstep until this financial crisis is behind us.

In the MN legislature: After hearing from workers, patients, and the community, legislators understand the need for help.

Multiple bills regarding HHS funding have been introduced, and we don't know which one (if any) will make it over the finish line this session.

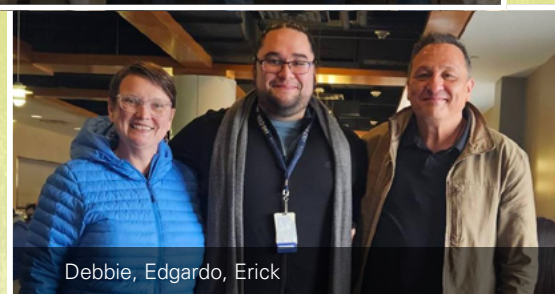
There is still a long road ahead to save HCMC.



Fatima Said's (right) coalition group met with Sen. Aric Putnam.



Edgardo Jaen's (left) coalition group met with Rep. Cal Warwas.



Debbie, Edgardo, Erick

Day on the Hill Interpreters Erick Biard, Edgardo Jaen, and Fatima Said joined a coalition of members from other unions at HCMC to advocate for lawmakers to support a bill that would save HCMC from closure and secure a sustainable funding source to keep it open.



MAY DAY UNITY BREAK | 12:00 – 1:00 PM | Friday, May 1st



Northside of Elliot Park (Minneapolis) Join MNGuild interpreters and a coalition of other HCMC unions in a solidarity rally. Support the hospital during this difficult time.



UNIT UPDATES



Strib Guild retirees host post-Surge soirée

By Steve Brandt, Photos by Marita Albinson
(Star Tribune, retirees)

Sixty-six Strib newsroom retirees contributed \$4,851 toward a show of appreciation for current newsroom workers for their outstanding reporting, analysis and visuals in covering the federal Metro Surge crackdown against immigrants. Workers were treated to a dinner catered by Salsa a la Salsa, one of many Lake Street immigrant-owned businesses that suffered a loss of customers. Robert Everest, longtime Guild member and HCMC language interpreter, serenaded the crowd on guitar. Retirees also penned notes of appreciation for the staff's coverage.

Former Strib unit Chair Kelly Smith responded: "Thank you so much for the amazing dinner and festivities! It was so generous of Strib retirees to contribute so much to this event. During a stressful, difficult time for the newsroom, it was a joyous celebration that was much appreciated."

Unspent contributions will go into a fund that supports members and their families through times of ill health and grief.



DID YOU KNOW...

...that the average cost of a cemetery plot is \$3,000?! Did you know that your union has cemetery plots available to buy at one-tenth that price - only \$300 + fees? "Wow. I did not when I first was hired!" said Whitney Woods, your trusted Operations Manager.

It's never the right day to plan for the inevitable. Save your loved ones the cost – and hey, take a super morbid field trip to check out your options. We have plots available at Roselawn or Hillside Cemeteries so you can forever be in your beloved Twin Cities.

Contact Whitney Woods in the Guild office at 651-645-9000 or whitney@mnguild.org for more info.