



Volume 4 | Issue 1

June 2026

MN GUILD NEWSLETTER



UPCOMING EVENTS

06
18

Nonprofit-Labor Happy Hour

5:30-7:00PM | Thursday, June 18th [Urban Growler Brewery, St. Paul](#)

Calling all members of nonprofit and union staff units! It's time for nonprofit and staff union members to chat and connect. This event is intended for members of nonprofit units at the Guild to get to know each other, offering an opportunity to mingle and share the joys (and challenges) of working in the nonprofit sector in Minnesota. Partners and patio-friendly dogs are welcome. The event starts at 5:30 pm, and non-alcoholic options are also available.

06
26

Smart Set Party - 40th Anniversary

5:00-10:00PM | Friday, June 26th [2521 24th Ave S, Minneapolis](#)

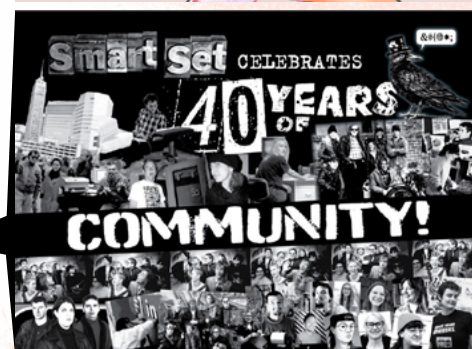
Smart Set is turning 40-years-old this year, and the team is having an open house. For decades, SmartSet has amplified voices and supported the expression of people through the art of printing. Come for food, music, community and a behind-the-scenes look at the process and people that make the company what it is. Ft. DJ Stage One.

06
28

2026 Twin Cities Pride Parade

6:00PM CT | Sunday, June 28th [RSVP](#) for starting location

The unions of the Minnesota AFL-CIO are marching in the Twin Cities Pride Parade. Come with your union shirts and signs to show that our units and members support equality for all!



UNIT UPDATES

Strib faces major layoffs — just weeks after Pulitzer Prize win

By Zamone Perez (*Public News Service*)

The Minnesota Star Tribune announced it would cut 15 percent of staff, including unit members, through a series of buyouts and layoffs – and transition the ownership of the paper to a nonprofit foundation.

All facets of the organization would be impacted. As many as 30 unit members will lose their jobs. Last year, management moved the paper's printing operations to Iowa, laying off more than 100 workers across several other unions.

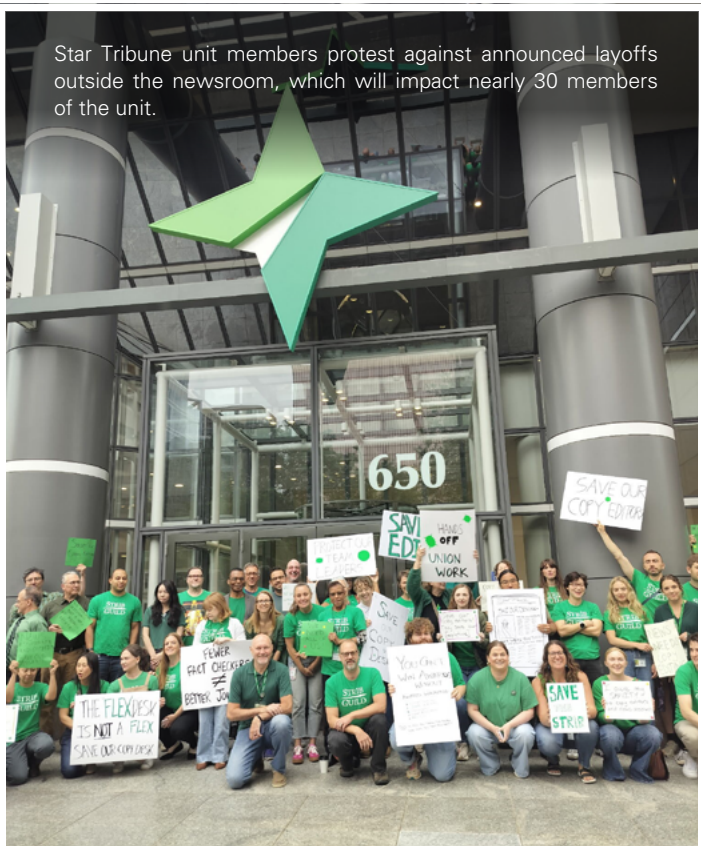
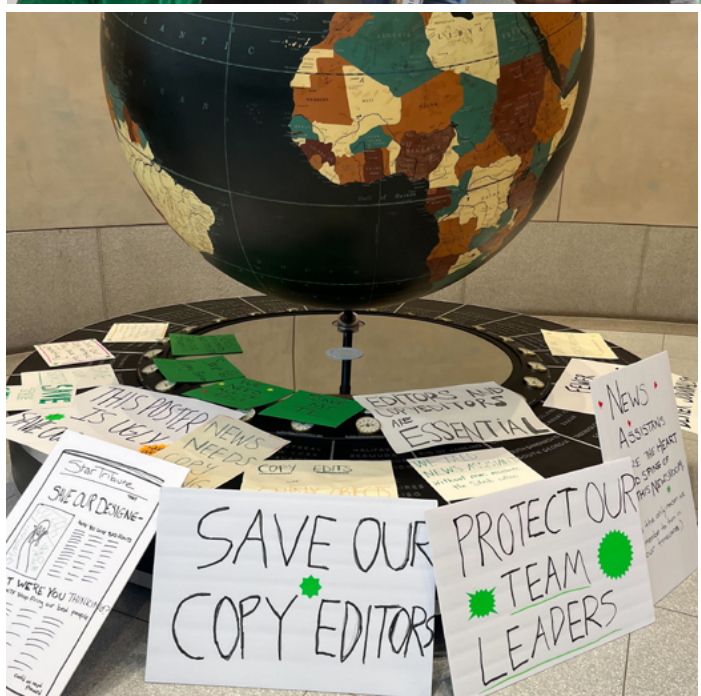
"The argument made by Star Tribune management that these layoffs are going to improve our company in any way, shape or form lacks any foundation in reality," the Star Tribune Guild [wrote](#). "This is a direct attack on the staff that just won a Pulitzer Prize for our work and has been widely praised — including by management — for its efforts."

News of the layoffs come a month after the Guild members won a Pulitzer Prize for breaking news reporting on the mass shooting at Annunciation Catholic Church and School – an event that hit literally and figuratively close to home for some journalists. One reporter was at home when shots were fired and called 911, and an editor's children attend the school.

The prize goes to the workers at the Star Tribune, who wrote "powerful stories marked by thoroughness and compassion," the Pulitzer jury [wrote](#). But in another callous move, management announced the medal would be displayed on the 13th floor, near their offices, not in the newsroom where workers made that high-quality journalism happen.

This is just one of countless examples of the important work our members do every day – and a reminder that, despite management's actions, Minnesota needs robust, worker-powered newsrooms. A fundraiser has been created to help support those siblings impacted by the layoffs. You can donate by [clicking here](#).

To show solidarity with our Star Tribune siblings, follow their [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Bluesky](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts to keep up-to-date on actions and other ways you can show support.



Star Tribune unit members protest against announced layoffs outside the newsroom, which will impact nearly 30 members of the unit.



Pioneer Press members kick off negotiations with demands for better benefits, AI protections

Guild members at the Pioneer Press began negotiations last week, rallying outside their offices before walking into its first bargaining session for a new contract.

The Pioneer Press is owned and operated by secretive and predatory hedge fund Alden Global Capital, which owns more than 100 papers across the country.

To learn more, Guild member Michael Moore (*St. Paul Union Advocate*) wrote about the demands of Pioneer Press workers [here](#).

TAKE THE CWA ISSUE SURVEY!

Every day, we fight to make our workplaces and communities better. As we head into the 2026 midterm elections, we want to know what matters most to you. Share your priorities so we can focus our fight, keep you informed, and invite you to take action when it counts.

[Click here](#) to take a short survey and make a big difference!

Training program strengthens understanding of labor movement

By Claire Mathews-Lingen (*CTUL*)

The [Minnesota Union Leadership Program \(MULP\)](#) at the University of Minnesota is an annual training program that brings together people across a wide range of unions to deepen our shared understanding of the labor movement.

I was fortunate enough to complete this training last month, and I'm so grateful to the Guild for their support. Being in MULP deepened my identity as a union member and helped me feel connected to the broader labor movement. The program kicked off with a retreat in northern Minnesota, which really helped us connect and set the tone for learning together.

MULP was a grounding space, as I served on my unit's bargaining team for the first time. Working at a workers center, I haven't always strongly identified with my union membership, but going through bargaining while in MULP this year made being a union member feel all the more relevant to my work and the broader movement.

Whether you're just starting out in a union or have been deeply involved for years, I highly recommend MULP. Check it out and apply now to join the next cohort this fall!

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN

For those interested in attending MULP, applications are now open!

The cost of attendance is \$2,500, which covers a two-day retreat, meals, parking, all program materials and instruction.

Scholarships available.

[Apply by September 4th!](#)



By the Book: How the 'Slowdown' Becomes a Union Superpower

By Zamone Perez (*Public News Service*)

Many of us love our jobs; we provide accurate information to readers, help patients navigate the healthcare system, negotiate for better conditions for workers and advocate for a wide range of crucial causes. We members at Minnesota NewsGuild make a difference. To say a lot of us go above and beyond in our workplaces would be an understatement.

But our passion for our work is also our leverage. Enter a time-tested worker action with many names: work-to-rule, a slowdown, an Italian strike.

A slowdown refers to workers who do no more than the minimum required by their contract – and strictly follow any and all procedures not typically enforced in the shop day-to-day. In some instances, work-to-rule can be more effective than a strike.

In 2003, our CWA siblings at Verizon initiated a slowdown during contract negotiations, after the company proposed a series of major concessions. The company wanted a strike – and had prepared scabs and managers to take on roles of union workers. To strike in that instance would inadvertently give management more leverage because their operations wouldn't be nearly as disrupted.

A common slogan was “never go by memory” – intended to spur workers to check their employee handbook for every task. Every precaution and procedure was followed by the book, and union members got Verizon to come back to the table and negotiate.

As your units engage in bargaining or grieve a contract violation, it is a useful reminder that not all actions involve walking out of the shop. Sometimes, it's leveraging our passion for the work.

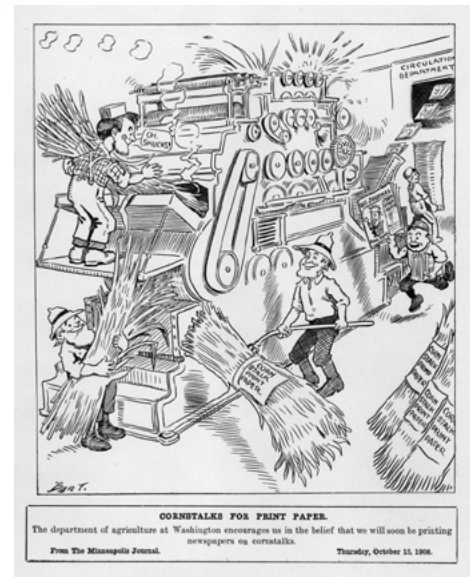
This Pride Month, learn the history of LGBTQ+ rights and labor movements

In nearly every social movement, labor unions have served as a source of allyship fighting for justice and equality for all. The same holds true for LGBTQ+ rights and the labor movement.

Post-Stonewall, it was unions – powered by LGBTQ+ members – that sought to make the labor movement more inclusive. The American Federation of Teachers drafted a statement opposing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Harvey Milk helped Teamsters boycott Coors for their anti-union, discriminatory practices. Service workers in Seattle and San Francisco fought to include anti-discrimination policies based on sexual orientation or gender expression.

Learn more at the links [here](#) and [here](#) – and happy Pride!

Political cartoon by Charles L. Bartholomew. Published in the Minneapolis Journal on October 15, 1908. [Hennepin County Library](#).



What happened to corn stalk newspapers? Do you know?

According to a New York Times report in their October 15th, 1908 edition, the Department of Agriculture said chemists had found a way to use corn stalks to print paper at fifty percent the cost of normal wood pulp. According to the Times's December 16, 1928 edition, the first corn stalk magazine and the first newspaper were printed in Illinois that same year ([NYT archives](#)).

One to two tons of corn stalk, husks and leaves grow to an acre. In 1928, more than 150 million tons of corn matter went to waste, according to an [article in Time](#). While tested during that time period, the process to harvest corn stalk proved more expensive and burdensome.

Today, newspapers are frequently printed on recycled paper – or from the pulp of soft wood trees.