



THE MINNESOTA GUILD ANNUAL PICNIC

11AM-2PM | SUNDAY, AUGUST 23RD

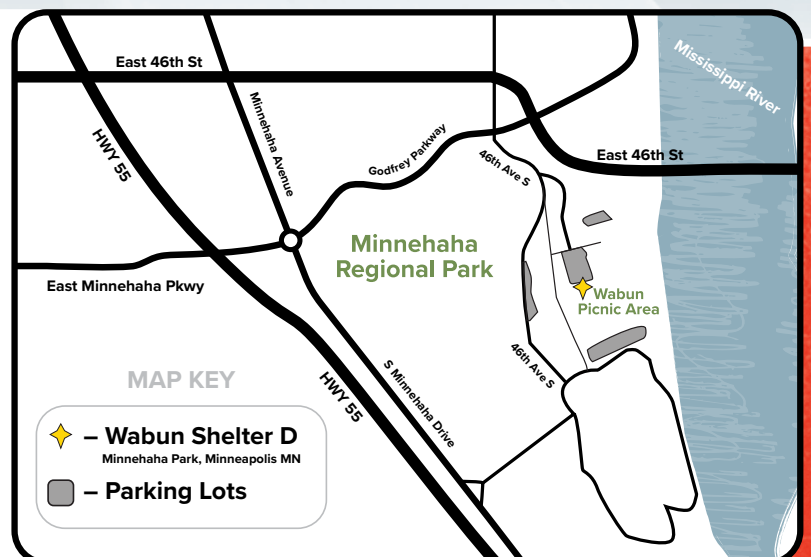
MINNEHAHA PARK: WABUN SHELTER D | MINNEAPOLIS, MN

See <http://tinyurl.com/MNGuild26> for the full details & to RSVP!
GROUP PHOTO @ 1:00PM! RAIN OR SHINE! SEE YOU THERE.

Calling all Guild Members & Retirees

You and your family are invited to our *fourth* annual picnic. Bring a dish to share, and join your fellow guild members for a variety of games, prizes, free swag, and camaraderie.

NEW LOCATION: Wabun Shelter D is south of the parking lot, past the wading pool and next to the playground.





Volume 4 | Issue 3

August 2026

MN GUILD NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

08
20

Core Organizing Skills: Action Planning

12:00–1:30PM CT | Thursday, August 20th [Online](#)

If collective action is the root of worker power, then developing ourselves to plan action effectively is a vital task. Attendees will discuss and practice actions in small groups

08
23

MN Guild's Fourth Annual Picnic

11:00AM-2:00PM | Sunday, August 23rd

Minneapolis, Minnehaha Park, Wabun D

Bring your family to our annual potluck. Enjoy games, swag, and meet up with friends new and old. [RSVP here!](#)

08
26

Minnesota Guild Executive Committee Meeting

6:00PM CT | Wednesday, August 26th [Online](#)

All are welcome to attend the Executive Committee of the Minnesota NewsGuild's meeting later this month. While rank and file members are not allowed to vote during these meetings, it's a great way to get better acquainted with the Guild's inner workings and processes! [Preregister here](#) for the meeting.

08
27

Nonprofit-Labor Caucus Happy Hour *Blackstack Brewery*

5:00–6:30PM | Thursday, August 27th [755 Prior Ave N. St. Paul](#)

Come connect with fellow nonprofit and staff union workers at the bi-monthly happy hour! Partners are welcome.

09
12

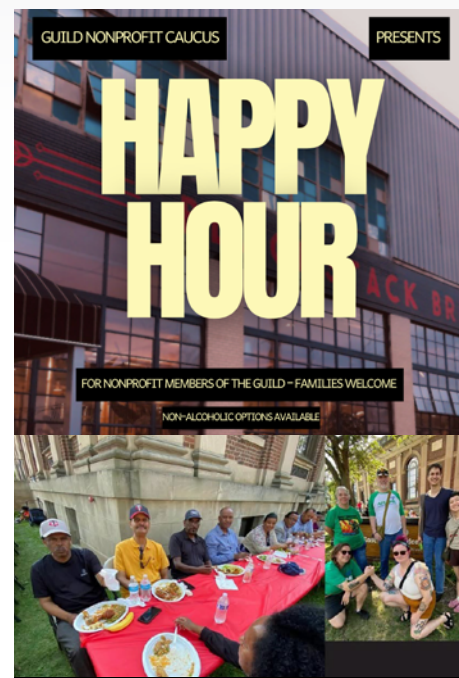
Labor Solidarity Picnic *Eastside Freedom Library*

1:00-4:00PM | Sunday, September 12th [1105 Greenbrier Street St. Paul](#)

Support the broader labor movement at the East Side Freedom Library's labor solidarity picnic! Burgers will be served, along with live music and updates from those in the labor movement. A new event at this year's picnic will be a silent auction that goes toward funding ESFL's Labor and Solidarity programming in 2027. [Let them know you're going here.](#)



How old were you when you attended your first contract bargaining session? Probably an adult who could vote, drive and even eat solid foods. For Caroline Picone Hennen, she was just three months old! Caroline was the daughter of Linda Picone, a then-Star and Tribune assistant city editor and member of the Guild's bargaining committee. She attended sessions before and during the paper's four-week strike in 1980.





UNIT UPDATES

Attending my first bargaining session

By: Imani Cruzen (*Pioneer Press*)

On Thursday, August 6, my colleagues and I spoke during negotiations to share our support for several contract proposals. These included a workload distribution proposal, support for professional development opportunities and protections related to artificial intelligence.

The four of us took time out of our workdays because we know these proposals are important. Listening to my colleagues, I am reminded of their passion for our work and why these proposals are necessary for us to be able to stay in journalism and do it well. I used to work in a newsroom that lost resources and morale, and then reporters, and I know the only future in those scenarios is no paper.

Despite our time and honesty, I was angered by the response from those representing MediaNews Group. It seemed clear their minds were made up on rejecting these proposals before

even hearing our need for them. They also didn't ask us any follow-up questions or want to engage any further with the four of us.

In addition to that, we were told consolidation in newsrooms is essentially inevitable and that they are aware readers say, "The Pioneer Press isn't what it used to be." All the while, they refuse to invest in us. I found their response completely disrespectful and dismissive – of our proposals and of us.

Despite this, I'm grateful to our bargaining team which came into the meeting prepared and compassionate. While I worry about the apathy from the other side of the table, I know that my colleagues and I won't stop advocating for our needs and improved working conditions. I also know that our bargaining team will keep up the pressure to make sure we are protected and listened to, and my colleagues and I are here to support them.

NOTICE: New executive committee positions to open next month

The Minnesota NewsGuild will be adding two new seats on the Executive Committee: a second non-profit representative and a staff-union representative. These positions were created following the passage of bylaw changes earlier this year which aim to promote greater representation of these constituencies in our local.

Non-profit workers and union staff are essential constituents within our local, bringing vital and vibrant perspectives and experiences to our labor movement. The representatives will provide strategic leadership on the finances, organizing strategies, events and direction of our Local.

Both positions will serve half a term beginning on January 1, 2027. They will then be up for reelection next year along with the rest of the Executive Committee, and serve a full term with reelection every two years.

To run for one of the open positions, you must do either of the following:

- [Attend](#) the September 23rd membership meeting to accept the nomination.
OR
- If you're unable to attend the meeting, send an email to news-paperguild@mnguild.org before the meeting, saying you would accept a nomination for the position.

Bruce Springsteen, the legendary rock musician, is a working-class advocate and union member. While writing songs focused on solidarity and the lives of working people, he is a card-carrying member of American Federation of Musicians locals in Los Angeles and New Jersey. (*Takahiro Kyono / Wikimedia Commons*)

The only words of workplace wisdom from "The Boss" you should take:
"UNIONS HAVE BEEN THE ONLY POWERFUL AND EFFECTIVE VOICE WORKING PEOPLE HAVE EVER HAD IN THE HISTORY OF THIS COUNTRY." –BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN

