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MN GUILD NEWSLETTER

ANG's First General Agency Bargaining Helps Hundreds

Guild negotiations resulted on Jan. 11 in the establishment of minimum wages up to \$70 a week for main desk men and other improved standards of employment for all editorial employees of the Hearst services, International News Service, Universal Service and the International News Photos.

The five-day 40-hour week was also instituted on a national scale for all employees "except full-fledged executives." Severance indemnity was also established on a basis of length of service ranging up to a maximum of 10 weeks' pay except in cases of discharges for misconduct.

Although not in contract form, these concessions are the first to be granted the Guild on a national scale, representing the result of negotiations carried on in the name of the ANG. They are the first comprehensive concessions on a wire service and affect at least 300 Hearst employees in more than 30 cities of the United States.

The interim agreement with the (Continued on page 4)

New Member



Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of the President, Has Joined the New York Guild by Virtue of Her Daily Syndicated Column, "My Day."

The Nation's Press Had a Bad Time in Trying to Record Her Remarks about Membership. Story on Page 2.

Officials Give Views On Our Org

Below are texts of letters received from Stephen Early, assistant Roosevelt; U. S. Senator Roy Edward F. McGrady, assistant secretary regarding the question of whether organized workers would be considered to end the press.

The letters are answers to the C after Roy W. Howard, co-owner of chain, had mentioned conversations with Senator Wagner, Secretary of Assistant Secretary McGrady. He consultations he felt confident that, could win public support for his view shop, which the Guild considers necessary, would make the unionization a danger to the independence of the press.

The letters are addressed to Milton secretary of the New York Guild, 1 THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

My dear Mr. Kaufman:

There is no disposition on the House official to feel that the right ployes to organize conflicts in any dom of the press."

I make this statement to you apart and without any relationship letter of December twenty-fourth.

ner affirming his belief that the right of newspaper employees to organize had nothing to do

The NewsGuild has seen a lot in its 93-year history – and now, those years of history are [readily available online!](#)

As a Labor Day surprise, NewsGuild President Jon Schleuss announced the release of *The Guild Reporter* archives. The more than 1,300 issues began in 1933, when the American Newspaper Guild first began. It covered the Guild and its place in history over the decades. Check out this front page from 1937, where it announces First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt joined the Guild!

First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt joined the New York Guild in 1937 because she wrote a syndicated column called "My Day" six times a week for two years. (TNG-CWA)

UPCOMING EVENTS

09
23

MN Guild Membership Meeting

6:00PM | Wednesday, September 23rd [Online](#)

All are welcome to attend the membership meeting of the Minnesota NewsGuild later this month. Nominations will take place for two newly-created Executive Committee positions. It's a great way to get better acquainted with the Guild and members from other units! Preregister [here](#) for the meeting.

10
06

Nonprofit-Labor Caucus Happy Hour at Gingko Coffeehouse

5:30PM | Tuesday, October 6th [721 Snelling Ave N St. Paul](#)

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

NEWSGUILD LABOR DAY STATS

1,742 WORKERS ORGANIZED

29 WORKPLACES ORGANIZED

35 FIRST CONTRACTS RATIFIED

15 STRIKES TOOK PLACE

Guild picnic a roaring success, solidarity on display

By Zamone Perez (Public News Service)

The Minnesota NewsGuild's fourth annual picnic was an amazing success, with fun, friendship and fomented solidarity for all.

Instead of two separate events, more than 100 attendees descended onto Minnehaha Regional Park in a first-ever joint Guild-Star Tribune picnic. Attendees ate an array of foods brought by Guild members: panzanella, burgers, brats, hotdogs, watermelon, elote salad and too many cookies to name. Todd Dahlstrom (MN AFL-CIO) served as our illustrious grill master, acing the task with no food poisoning incidents yet reported.

Minnesota Guild President Nick Woltman explained the picnic builds solidarity and relationships across Guild units:

"It was great to see so many new and familiar faces at this year's picnic," Woltman said. "There's no better way to get to know your union siblings than at a barbecue in a park. Thank you to Allana and everyone else who pitched in to make it happen!"



Jared Kaufman, vice president of the Pioneer Press unit, echoed that sentiment. He said a highlight of the day was getting to know other members from different units.



"It seemed like a good opportunity to not only meet our coworkers, but collectively be together as a Guild and remind ourselves it's not just our unit," Kaufman said. "There's a broader movement here that's fighting for the same things we're fighting for."

Beyond great food and conversations, attendees played tug-of-war, water balloon toss and a rather difficult game of Minnesota and Guild trivia (who knew that Tonka Trucks weren't made in Minnetonka?!). Written by Eric Roper (Star Tribune). Attendees also colored in a canvas designed by Jessi Mischo (Smart Set) and four won amazing prize baskets, collected and designed by Sierra St. John (MN Council of Nonprofits) and Claire Matthews-Lingen (CTUL).

Star Tribune leaders also honored Kelly Smith, vice president of the local, for all of her tireless and persistent work during her tenure as leader of the unit.

After an intense year following layoffs at a number of units and the ramifications of the federal government's Operation Metro Surge, the picnic was a great reminder that the labor struggle isn't always a struggle—except when it comes to tug-of-war.

It's more important than ever to unwind and break bread with our union siblings.



GUILD PICNIC BY THE NUMBERS

- **56** active members and **50** guests attended, plus three four-legged friends
- **14** units represented
- Consumed **110** hamburgers and **54** hotdogs
- Retirees and alums showed up in force with **24** people
- The longest distance traveled to the picnic was **330** miles
- Came in about **\$200** under budget
- Blisters from tug-of-war? **Countless**





UNIT UPDATES

MinnPost secures bonus for member who took on extra

By Cleo Krejci (*MinnPost*)

Our union secured a one-time \$1,300 bonus for an employee to recognize the uncompensated labor they had performed outside of their job description. For months, the employee felt pressured to work their regular job while taking-on additional tasks left by a staffing hole that management never effectively addressed.

“It felt like a huge relief to get the one-time bonus—not only because it was a decent amount of money that I could use towards my living expenses, but also because it felt like an acknowledgment from leadership of all the extra work I’d been taking on over the past year,” the employee said. “I was also proud that I advocated for myself in that way. This is one of the first workplaces I’ve been in where I was not only empowered to speak up and ask for that kind of compensation, but I was actively encouraged to do so.”

Leadership agreed to the bonus after the union stepped in on behalf of the employee, who reported feeling exhausted and overlooked. These efforts highlight the power we have as workers when we lean on each other and the solidarity of our fellow union members.

Local to national: Clean Water Action shows solidarity in contract negotiations

By: James Rodriguez (*Clean Water Action*)

After a years-long organizing effort to bring our national coworkers into the existing Minnesota union at Clean Water Action — a union that has represented MN staff for 23 years — victory came on April 20 — along with a brief moment to exhale. The organization recognized our national coworkers into the existing unit under our existing contract, through a unique tripartite agreement between Clean Water Action, the Pacific Media Workers Guild and the Minnesota Guild

The celebration, however, was brief. With the current contract set to expire June 30, we had to quickly shift from celebrating recognition to preparing for our next — and first-ever national — contract.

That quick turnaround was further complicated when an organization-wide email outlined financial challenges over the coming months. Like many advocacy groups right now, Clean Water Action is feeling the ripple effects — in some cases seismic shifts — of changing policies and funding from the federal government. That left the Guild with a real challenge.

Management’s playbook of “crying broke” or invoking “management rights” is familiar, but how do we organize against it when management can use this moment’s precarity as cover to avoid relinquishing power or transparency?

We are currently in the middle of contract negotiations. On the bargaining side, we’re in good shape. We have a dedicated bargaining team who have combed through every inch of the current contract to update it for our new national unit — and push for transparency, equity and democracy in every article possible. The next step is strengthening our “action muscle”: turning that energy from the bargaining table to the shop floor — or the shop Teams and Zoom rooms — so management knows we’re paying attention and ready to act.

Management will always default to giving up less. When this moment gives them cover to hold tighter to power and the purse strings, it’s on us to show where the organization’s real power lies: in its workers.

**Bargaining 101:
How To Build A
Contract Campaign**
Two of our panelists for the upcoming workshop:



Marcia Howard
President of Minneapolis
Federation of Educators (MFE)

Cherrene Horazuk
Organizer for Delta AFA
Former president of AFSCME 3800

**Saturday, 9/19
10:30AM
United Labor Center
312 Central Ave**

