Labor feeling good about Nov. 8’s election

Four battleground states that are being watched in the presidential race include Clinton leaning Pennsylvania 51 to 45%, Florida 49 to 45%, and North Carolina 50 to 48%. Ohio was last seen leaning Trump at 48 to 47%

See Volunteers...page 3

AFL-CIO Endorsed Candidates

**PRESIDENT**  
Hillary Clinton

**CONGRESS**  
Rep. Rick Nolan- MN 8  
Mary Hoefert- WI 7  
Senate (WD)- Russ Feingold

**MINNESOTA**  
**LEGISLATURE**  
District 3  
Senator Tom Bakk  
3A- Rep. Rob Ecklund  
3B- Rep. Mary Murphy

District 5  
Senator Tom Saxhaug  
5A- Rep. John Persell  
5B- Rep. Tom Anzelc

District 6  
Senator David Tomassoni  
6A- Julie Sandstede  
6B- Rep. Jason Metsa

District 7  
Senate- Rep. Erik Simonson  
7B- Liz Olson

District 11  
Senator Tony Lourey  
11A- Rep. Mike Sundin  
11B- Tom Jones

**St. Louis County Board**  
Patrick Boyle • District 2  
Beth Olson • District 3  
Pete Stauber • District 5

**Carlton County Board**  
Dick Brenner • District 1  
Cloquet City Council  
Adam Bailey • At Large  
Steve Langley • Ward 5

**Cook County Schools**  
VOTE YES levy & bonding

**International Falls**  
Pete Kalar • Mayor  
Joe Schwartz • Council@Lrg

**Proctor**  
Phil Larson • Mayor

**WISCONSIN**  
**State Assembly**  
Nick Milroy • District 73  
Beth Meyers- District 74

**Better City Superior**  
VOTE YES  

PLEASE VOTE  
Tuesday, Nov. 8

---

Karin White, center, a fearless Whole Foods Co-op worker that supports organizing into a union found some kindred spirits at the WFC annual meeting Friday evening. White was collecting signatures on a petition. The woman on the left has a “Pro Coop, Pro Union” button on her pocket.

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**An Injury to One is an Injury to All!!**

**WEDNESDAY VOL. 123 NO. 9**

**OCTOBER 26, 2016**

VOTE

**instead went into awarding**

**continue discussion. They**

**would not entertain a motion to**

**the board cut off speakers and**

**That meeting ended in chaos as**

**last Friday’s annual meeting.**

**good and welfare segment of**

**directly had failed, other than a**

**attempts to address the board**

**brand new Denfeld Co-op that**

**Whole Food Co-op board of**

**share their feelings before the**

**were given an opportunity to**

**tive bargaining, owner/workers**

**1189 for the purpose of collec-**

**& Commercial Workers Local**

**Now the get-out-the-vote kicks in big time. Call Katie Humphrey at 370-0187 to help.**

**CIO-endorsed candidates. Almost two dozen more volunteers showed up during the day.**

**Temple Saturday, Oct. 15 in the last major Labor 2016 Day of Action doorknock for AFL-**

**These early rising volunteers and staffers were up and at ‘em and out the door of the Labor**

**Six months into their effort**

**make prior requests, which**

**workers who wanted to speak**

**than twice the time they alloted**

**doorprizes, which took more**

**ing, or ask for a member**

**That happened at Monday**

**as the board cut off speakers and**

**whole of Duluth For the**

**NEALC’s Jason Metsa also has**

**at the Iron Range.**

**The NEALC covers a seven**

**from unions in Duluth For the**

**four relief staff on the Iron**

**AFL-CIO’s Labor 2016 effort.**

**we’ve got a busy couple of**

**we’re going to win the open**

**by a large number of volunteers.**

**“On our last Day of Action**

**out of the Labor Temple**

**and at ‘em and out the door of the Labor**

**to work without a large number**

**Canadian border to Pine**

**is to be considered to be**

**hitting the century mark, you’d**

**“On our last Day of Action**

**of Action out of the Labor**

**Saturday, October 15 we felt**

**out of the Labor Temple**

**a seven county region from**

**AFL-CIO-endorsed candidates.**

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**CIO-endorsed candidates. Almost two dozen more volunteers showed up during the day.**

**Six months into their effort to organize with United Food & Commercial Workers Local 1189 for the purpose of collective bargaining, owner/workers were given an opportunity to share their feelings before the Whole Food Co-op board of directors and management.**

**That happened at Monday evening’s board meeting at the brand new Denfeld Co-op that opened this spring. All prior attempts to address the board directly had failed, other than a good and welfare segment of last Friday’s annual meeting. That meeting ended in chaos as the board cut off speakers and would not entertain a motion to continue discussion. They instead went into awarding**

**doorprizes, which took more than twice the time they alloted to listening to owners.**

**At August and September board meetings owners and workers who wanted to speak were not given an opportunity. They were told they needed to make prior requests, which they had for September’s meet-**

**Co-op board listens, but still union bustling**

**See Co-op fighting...page 6**

**See Co-op fighting...page 6**

**See Co-op fighting...page 6**
Insure Duluth offers free MNsure service

By Megan Halena, Program Director, Generations Health Care Initiatives

Do you, a friend, or family member need health insurance? Have you wondered if using MNsure would be right for you? Have you considering retiring, but don’t know how to get coverage until Medicare kicks in?

There are many scenarios that bring up health insurance questions. Thankfully, MNsure navigators are in trusted organizations throughout Duluth, serving as a helpful, FREE resource that anyone can use. Navigators can answer questions, as well as help with applications and enrollment into a plan. To get navigator assistance, contact any of these organizations:

- Lake Superior Community Health Center - 722-9650
- Community Action Duluth - 726-1665
- Duluth Salvation Army - 722-7943
- Women’s Health Center of Duluth - 727-3352
- Generations Health Care Initiatives - 336-5709

The holiday programs can only be successful because of the generosity of unions and their members. If you can make a contribution please send it to Duluth Central Labor Body, Attn: Holiday Food Baskets, Room 110, 2002 London Road, Duluth, MN 55812.

If you would like to help in any way contact Rachel Loeffler-Kemp at rloeffler-kemp@hlunitedway.org or by calling 218-726-4775.

“You’ll feel really good for helping others during the holidays,” she says.

Share Food Drive Oct. 29

You can help make a difference in Duluth this Saturday, October 29 during the CHUM annual Share Food Drive! Do your grocery shopping this Saturday and purchase a few items for those who are hungry in Duluth. Boy Scouts and other volunteers will be handing out ‘most needed grocery’ slips at the doors. Choose a couple of items from the list to purchase, and drop them off on your way out of the store. Grocery stores participating in the SHARE Food Drive include: All Super One Foods including Woodland Market, Whole Foods Co-op, Cub Foods, Target, Walmart, and Mount Royal Fine Foods.

Super Ones, Cub, and Mount Royal Fine Foods are all union grocery stores, where workers are represented by United Food & Commercial Workers Local 1899.

The Duluth Labor Community was instrumental in the creation of the SHARE Food Drive decades ago.

Sheet Metal Workers’ Local 10 Retirees’ Luncheon

Tuesday, Nov. 1, 1:00 p.m.

Cast Iron, 5906 Old Miller Trunk Hwy

Working for you, because of you!

After two terms in the House for District 7B, I’ve decided now is the time to step up and represent the City of Duluth in the Minnesota Senate. You can count on me to continue my progressive values, be a voice for labor and economic growth, while working to protect our environment.

I will appreciate your vote on November 8th so we can continue our work together.

Erik Simonson for Senate District 7

Paid for by Duluth Central Labor Body COPE

Thank you!

I really appreciate your Labor endorsements, and all the help and support I have received from working families this election year.

You’ll always have a friend in the Second District.

Patrick Boyle

St. Louis County Commissioner
District 2

Please Vote Boyle November 8!

Paid for by Duluth AFL-CIO Central Labor Body COPE
It’s estimated 10% of Minnesotans will vote before election day with our “no excuse needed” absentee law. That’s great for those in line Nov. 8, election judges, and vote counters. Those who voted can just turn out. Have you? Pretty hard to do that in this money fight.

Republicans are engaging in a conservative anarchy, looking for new ways to honor Grover Norquist by flushing government down the drain…spending billions to do it. Trump doesn’t know if he’ll abide by the vote count if he loses. What’s he going to do move to China? A lot of us abided George W. Bush’s two questionable victories, hoping to move on.

Here’s a Sen. John McCain comment—I promise you that we will be united against any Supreme Court nominee that Hillary Clinton, if she were president, would put up.” That’s what they’ve done to Obama’s pick Judge Merrick Garland to fill the vacancy left by Antonin Scalia’s death seven months ago in an unprecedented delay. Who needs judges? The reason we’re in this electoral political mess that has most everyone frustrated—and think what it’s doing to children trying to relate to the importance of government and voting—is because of that Supreme Court’s Visitors United ruling. They just opened the doors to those with really deep pockets when they considered corporations, yes, and unions, as people. No wonder t hey don’t trust science. They don’t know what it is. Think what will happen if that Court gets any worse with a Trump victory, or Republican obstructionism if Hillary wins.

We just went through all that with the NLRB which didn’t have a quorum because Republicans wouldn’t confirm an Obama choice. Decisions were tossed out.

Republicans feel we don’t need a Supreme Court, we’ll get along just fine. We don’t need the FBI. We don’t need the Department of Justice. Trump called those last two “disgraceful.” We don’t need the EPA, ask Stewart Mills or ask him about any government regulations. If Republicans weren’t running for Congress and the Presidency they probably wouldn’t need those institutions either; but, hey, if they win those seats they’ll make good use of them for the American people. “flush government down the drain” was said years ago and things have only gotten worse. And you are supposed to go to the polls Tuesday, Nov. 8 and exercise democracy by voting.

Fortunately, hopefully, a majority of Americans believe in government as a way to have a civilized society. And taxes are the price we pay to help make that happen.

This breed of Republican obstructionists cannot be allowed to gain the reins of this country. We’ve got enough trouble without them making things worse as they go about their business of making money for themselves and their friends, the rest of us be damned for our insignificance. But they do need us to carry the load paying taxes for the things they do believe in….e.g. the military, but not veterans… but can’t pay for. They will stop at nothing to get back in power after eight years of what they’d call Obama socialism. We could have been so lucky. Do you still have your guns? I do, must not have been home when Obama came to get mine.

Here’s hoping voters have had it with what has been forced upon and they’ll show up in record numbers this presidential year.

I’m voting “nasty woman.”

Trump’s VP Pence turned his back on railroad families

**Editor:**
I am addressing this letter to all railroad workers, retirees, widows, and dependents who are covered under the Railroad Retirement Act.

In 2001, on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives then Congressman Mike Pence, R-IN voted against the Railroad Retirement and Survivors Improvement Act of 2001. This is the bill which provided retirement at age 60 with 30 years of service. Anyone who retired after February 1, 2002 is covered under this amended law.

On December 11, 2001, Roll Call #485, there were 369 Ayes, 33 Nays and 31 not voting. Rep. Mike Pence was a Nay vote on this important legislation affecting over one million recipients covered under Railroad Retirement. This was a bipartisan bill agreed to by management, labor, the Railroad Retirement Board and the actuaries.

Voting records are not forgotten. Does Mike Pence deserve our support? You be the judge!

**Thomas J. Dwyer,** National President, National Association of Retired & Veteran Railway Employees

Volunteers key to election victory for working families…from page 1

The U.S. Senate is also considered to be leaning Democratic, but that party will need to win an extra 6 seats to have the clear majority. Now 54 Republicans, 44 Democrats, and 2 Independents, who usually caucus with the Democrats are in the Senate.

Neither Minnesota U.S. Senator is up for election but Humphrey says Russ Feingold is doing well in Wisconsin in trying to reclaim the seat he lost to Republican incumbent Senator Ron Johnson.

Pennsylvania, Florida, North Carolina, Missouri, and New Hampshire all have U.S. Senate races that Democrats need to win to gain a majority.

Democrats would have to win 30 seats to take the U.S. House of Representatives and that body is considered to be leaning Republican nationally, but about 50 races are very competitive.

Congressman Rick Nolan is again in a very tight race that is being bombarded with outside money as the most expensive U.S. House race in the nation. It will cost more than all of California’s 53 House races.

“Rick’s win depends on volunteers, though, not the money being spent on advertising,” said Humphrey.

She said all the polls in the race are within the margin of error, which means it could be as close as two years ago when Nolan won by 1.4% of the vote, just over 3,732 votes out of 266,083 cast. Green Party candidate Skip Sandman got 11,450 of those votes and there is no Green candidate this time around.

In the Minnesota Senate the DFL holds a 39 to 28 majority. In the Minnesota House the Republicans hold a 73 to 51 majority.

Chris Shields, Minnesota AFL-CIO Communications Director, said, “We’re hearing from all the area labor councils that union members are engaged to get our Labor-endorsed candidates elected. We’re feeling confident that if we continue our hard work we’ll have a good shot at getting working family majorities in the state senate and house.”

As always which party is in charge will come down to voter turnout as it should.

“Voter turnout is always good in northern Minnesota, especially during a presidential election,” said Humphrey. “And this election has seemed to draw everyone’s interest. A large turnout should be a good thing for our candidates.”

The “Get-out-the-vote (GOTV) vote effort will have the Labor Temple jumping with folks November 8. Logistics for giving people rides to the polls and making sure everyone is voting are still being worked out, along with how to feed everyone.

“That will all start going in full swing on Saturday, November 5 right up until the polls close on November 8th,” said Humphrey.

And when the polls close Katie Humphrey will take some deserved time off. Well, after the votes are counted.

LABOR WORLD NEWS, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2016 PAGE 3
Plumbers & Steamfitters #11’s Phil Larson endorsed for Mayor of Proctor

Following screenings of three of the four candidates running for mayor of Proctor in the Tuesday, Nov. 8 General Election, Phil Larson was endorsed Oct. 13 by the Duluth AFL-CIO Central Labor Body, which has labor jurisdiction for the municipality.

Larson’s endorsement came without opposition and follows his endorsement by the Duluth Building & Construction Trades Council September 20. He retired in January as a 37-year member of Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 11. He served on the Executive Board, pension board, and as an International convention delegate.

“I appreciate the faith the Central Body and the Trades Council have shown in supporting me to be mayor of Proctor,” Larson said. “Having labor endorsements is important to me because I’m passionate about union labor, which has given my family a good life. We were covered by good benefits and I was able to retire early because I worked as a union member. Now I have time to get back into city government and help my town.”

Larson spent eight years as a Proctor city councilor but retired when his twins got to be 12 years old to be able to spend time with them through their teenage years. They are now adults.

It is an oddity that four people will be on the ballot for mayor Nov. 8. Traditionally Proctor has not had a lot of candidates file for elected office and city administration appears to have been caught off guard by the large number of filings. Apparently, the time between filings closing and the August 9 Primary Election was too tight for the city without better planning. And that might be part of the reason so many candidates filed. It seems many people are dissatisfied with how the city has been run. All three mayoral candidates expressed that at the screening. Phrases like “back room deals,” “conflict of interest,” even “nepotism,” were leveled at the previous leadership and administration. In spite of those accusations there are drum beats for a write-in campaign for the retiring mayor.

The city council will have eight people on the ballot for two positions. Jennifer Ells withdrew too late to have her name removed from the ballot. The mayoral screenings came at the request of local union affiliates of the Central Body but no requests were received for city council or Proctor school board screenings.

Larson said he has attended many city council meetings since he was a member on it and couldn’t believe some of the things that transpired in the town that he and his extended family have lived in for many decades.

“Proctor has had conflicts of interest in how some bids have been given out, and city officials have family members getting jobs at the golf course,” Larson said. “That’s just not how city government should be run. I’ll clean that kind of stuff up. People will know why and how things are happening if I’m mayor of Proctor.”

He said some bids in Proctor have been given to non-union contractors that don’t have good track records.

“I’ve tried to tell administration to throw out the high and low bids and go from there, which is what happened at the municipal liquor store,” Larson said. “Cheap isn’t always good, and good isn’t always cheap.”

Proctor is a small town adjacent to Duluth. The 2010 Census listed it as having 5,057 residents. The St. Louis County Auditor’s office says there are 1,859 eligible voters in the town. With four candidates running for mayor every vote will count, which is a phrase often used, but even more critical when four candidates will split that many votes.

Proctor is only three square miles in size but has U.S. Highway 2 running through it and also borders I-35.

Last week Chief Administrative Law Judge Tammy Pust ruled that the Hovland family’s petition to have 93 acres they own annexed into Proctor can go forward. The property runs alongside I-35 and is now part of Midway Township. That annexation follows a huge battle waged over the decades between Proctor which has often tried to annex Midway Township, which the township has fought off. Midway and the City of Duluth signed an orderly annexation agreement that has not been acted upon. The judge’s decision could have a major impact on economic development for Proctor on the I-35 corridor.

Larson said the next mayor of Proctor could have a great opportunity for economic development on the Hovland property, which is on both sides of I-35 at the Ugstad Road.

“We’ve got to do a better job in our relationships with Duluth, Hermantown, and Midway Township,” said Larson. “I’d like to have the opportunity to mend those fences and get us all working together to improve prospects for all of us.”

You have right to take time off work to vote

In Minnesota workers have the right to take time off work to vote without losing their pay, personal leave, or vacation time.

Your employer must pay you for the time you need to vote, if it falls within your scheduled work time. Your employer cannot require you to use personal leave or vacation time (Minnesota Statutes 204C.04 and 204C.08 Subd.1d). Take only as much time as you need to vote and go back to work.

Your employer cannot directly or indirectly refuse, limit, or interfere with this right, including what time you choose to vote.

Your employer can ask that you tell them when you will be gone, and ask that employees coordinate their absences to minimize workplace disruptions.

You have the right to time off work to vote in all state and federal elections, and in all regularly scheduled local elections.

An employer that violates this law is guilty of a misdemeanor. Any complaints from employees should be filed with their county attorney.

http://www.sos.state.mn.us/media/1849/letter-to-employees-from-secretary-simon.pdf is a website that has a letter addressed to employers by Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon than can be printed off and presented to your employer.

http://www.sos.state.mn.us/media/2276/time-off-work-to-vote.pdf is a website that has a flyer you can printed and posted at your worksite.
Congressmen Franken, Levins make pitch for Rep. Rick Nolan

Minnesota’s 8th Congressional District Democratic Rep. Rick Nolan is considered to hold one of the most vulnerable seats in this election. That should come as no surprise as he faces the same Republican opponent that he did two years ago, Nolan won that election by 1.4% of the vote, 3,732 out of 266,083 cast. If there is any silver lining in those numbers it is that Green Party candidate Skip Sandman siphoned most of his 11,450 votes from Nolan.

Rep. Nolan doesn’t address those Green votes of two years as he’s running like he’s going to get beat. Most polls show him as having a razor thin lead, to get beat. Most polls show as he’s running like he’s going of his 11,450 votes from Nolan.

What information does Social Security really need?

What if my disability claim is denied?

Is there anything I can do?

Would I be better off getting experienced help?

If you need answers, there’s no question you should call.

800-535-1665 • 218-727-5384
130 W. Superior St., Duluth
duluth.injury.com

LABOR WORLD NEWS, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2016
Co-op fighting their workers
...from page 1

their board meeting of the previous evening, which had turned ugly as they refused owner and worker input, then escorted those in attendance out of the Hillside store. The board laid down a full page 10-point rules and etiquette policy that included only a half hour for up to 12 speakers, at no more than two minutes each.

The dozen owners and workers who showed up Monday evening were very respectful as they stated their feelings to the board and management.

AFSCME Local 66’s Theresa D’Halloran Johnson told the board they should review their by-laws and make them allow more input from members. She said as a social worker in a difficult job, her job is made easier because she is represented by a union.

UFCW organizer Diana Tastad told them, “I am really, really, really disappointed with the board, you say you are neutral, but we hear from workers of union-busting talk, or that stores will close if the union wins...It’s hard to have much respect for people who say they are progressive and yet you won’t stand for workers.”

Former city councilor Sharla Gardner said as a long time member she looked at the board’s composition and thought it was comprised of really good people.

“I was surprised and shocked at your lack of transparency with owners, you need to reach out to members...and a neutrality agreement (for the workers’ organizing) is needed.”

UFCW Organizer Abraham Wangnoo said he represents two groups of co-op workers in the Twin Cities and becoming union has resulted in good relationships between those workers and their co-ops.

“We want this co-op to be successful,” he said. “But workers deserve to be heard...we not taking anyone’s power away.” Prior to the meeting Wangnoo said he wondered who was guiding the board on how they go about making policy.

Owner/worker Karin White told the board that she went to the annual meeting thinking it should be a positive experience, but “the blatant disregard for open dialogue was especially hurtful.”

At that meeting at the DECC, White and other workers collected signatures from 76 of the 205 in attendance in a short window between owners arriving and the meeting starting.

“They could have had twice as many with more time,” said Wangnoo. “Nine out of ten people they were able to engage signed.”

The 46th annual meeting should have been the perfect time for the Co-op Board and management to listen to owners and owner/workers. They did for a short period of time and then promptly shut down the floor microphones and chaos ensued. Owners were forced to try to shout their way to being heard on a motion to continue discussion. They were shut off by Vice President Maryann Bernard, who ran the meeting, after calling for the question on extending time for discussion.

Bernard had opened the meeting with “this isn’t a town hall meeting or question and answer, and speakers will be given one minute.” The board at all their meetings sets firm times on their deliberations.

Former employees spoke on behalf of their former co-workers and asked the board and management to respect and listen to them.

The board maintains that their job is to hire a general manager, and it is that person’s job to deal with employees.

Wangnoo accused the board of hiding behind words of being a cooperative as they engage in union busting.

He said a community event is being planned to show workers their broad support.

“We’d like to see the company negotiate terms of a code of conduct that says they will not terrify workers with their union busting tactics,” said Wangnoo. He said the organizing committee still has workers to talk to but they hope to file for a union election this year.
Frank Sramek, “just another guy,” pulls the pin as Central Body delegate

Frank Sramek was surprised by the little party in is honor at the Duluth Central Labor Body meeting Oct. 13. He had decided that was going to be his last meeting but didn’t figure anyone else knew, or cared.

The delegates in attendance cared as have many hundreds of others of them over the decades that Frank has faithfully attended not only their meetings but any meeting called by his union that he’s so proud of, Ironworkers Local 512.

“It’s been a real privilege as a retiree to represent Ironworkers Local 512 at Central Body meetings,” Frank said in addressing his fellow delegates. “I guess I’ve surprised myself at 91, but I don’t hear well, and always have to ask for help about what someone said. My eyes are worse and I now have a restricted license. The time comes to find someone else to step up.”

Earlier that day Frank was laying under his pickup changing the oil and filter.

“I used the seat belt to raise and lower myself and scooched under,” he said with his trade-mark grin. “Boy was I glad when I made it back up on my feet again.”

And then Sunday, Oct. 16 he was cleaning up his 7.5 acres on the St. Louis River near Toivola Meadowlands.

“It’s my little recreation and fishing hole and it has a steep bank,” he said last week. “I went ass over tea kettle and wrenched my shoulder. Boy, it was hard driving home.” He lives in Hermantown with his wife, Jo-Anne, an AFSCME retiree, so the trip from the fishing hole was tough but you don’t question the work ethic or toughness of an Ironworker.

The son of Czechoslovakian immigrants who came to America in 1913, Frank was born in their Elmer Township farmhouse by midwife in 1925. He reads and writes Czech fluently and has been used as an interpreter. He’s also fluent in Finnish, which many of the people he grew up with spoke.

Within a couple months of graduating high school in 1943 Frank joined the Navy and was stationed stateside. When he was discharged he returned home to farm.

“Things weren’t good, we owed a lot of money, so I also took a job also trying to organize farmers for what became the National Farmers Organization,” he said. “That was like beating your head against the wall. Farmers would say they’d join if it works. Others said we were whiners because we couldn’t farm good enough. Farmers tried milk strikes but the Court of Appeals said it was illegal for them to withhold their product.”

He got a summer job in the Butler mine as a shovel oiler, and “I worked in Charlie Leppala’s logging camp north of Nashwauk in the winter.”

“It was one of the last old time logging camps near Bois Forte,” Frank said.

He found labor work and realized he was doing the same work as Ironworkers for less pay.

“When I got laid off I went to the Ironworkers union hall and got on with a work assessment through Jack Telaga,” Frank said. “There were no apprenticeships back then, and I got my book in 1955. After trying to organize farmers, I got into the Ironworkers and didn’t have to do anything to get in. That was the best thing that ever happened to me in my work life and I knew it right away.”

Frank went to work in the taconite plants in 1965, the same year he became recording secretary of what was then Ironworkers Local 563, but is now Ironworkers 512 after a merger. “I told them I’d attend every meeting and I did, just like when I was township clerk for 8 years, and supervisor for 30 more.”

He worked in every taconite plant and was union steward on all the jobs he was on. “You had to know the jurisdiction of all the crafts and your own contract and I had that all down pat,” he says proudly.

He worked on the High Bridge, now Blatnik Bridge, which opened Dec. 2, 1961, the longest bridge in Minnesota when it was built at 10,775 feet including approaches. Two of his union brothers died on that job, falling in the water.

Frank retired in 1985 at 60, which meant he had to quit his recording secretary job as well. Twenty years is a long time to be a recording secretary but he said Jo-Anne made it easy by typing up all the minutes.

“I’m very fortunate to have a wife who was so supportive throughout all my union activities,” Frank said. They attended Central Body meetings together for years.

Frank worked a little after he retired, which the Ironworkers allow if the bench is empty.

“I worked some up to 65,” he said. “My last job was at the zoo, and I still have my hard hat with my John Fedo for Mayor sticker.”

He retired earlier than many Ironworkers who came before him. “We always worked to improve our contracts and did. Pretty soon guys could retire earlier and open the way for young people to get into our apprenticeship program. Then we needed our own union hall and training center to train all the apprentices and to give journeyman upgrades.”

They have that incredible facility on the Midway Road near U.S. Highway 2. Other training centers have been built and one is being looked at for North Dakota. That’s really something to proud of Frank says.

Life wasn’t all work though. He had started running at age 56 “and I got addicted. I ran Grandma’s and the Twin Cities marathons at 60. It was an important part of my life. I ran about 140 races and maybe my longevity can be attributed to that, and changing my eating habits.”

A person who doesn’t watch television, Frank said “I read, read, and do research.” He’s been hooked by assassinations. “The Kennedys, Martin Luther King, Wellstone. I’ve studied them all.” That See Sramek...page 8
There will be a constitutional amendment on Minnesota legislator’s pay on your ballot

In all the bluster over election campaigns before polls open Nov. 8, there will be one Constitutional Amendment on the ballot in Minnesota that hasn’t gotten much play, and it concerns legislators’ pay.

Here’s what you’ll find on your ballot:

**Remove Lawmakers’ Power to Set Their Own Pay**

_Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to remove state lawmakers’ power to set their own salaries, and instead establish an independent, citizens-only council to prescribe salaries of lawmakers?_

Legislators setting their own pay is one tough political football for them. They haven’t taken a raise since 1999. While most legislators don’t rely on that pay as their only source of income for their families, they spend a lot of time as elected officials for a low rate of pay.

Now don’t get bleary-eyed and skip over that ballot question because you don’t vote on it, you’ve voted “no.”

Not having to fight over their pay will be one less thing for legislators to haggle over during short sessions. And it will be one less thing for candidates to use as fodder in electoral politics, which will give us all a small break.

The Minnesota AFL-CIO has not taken a position on the ballot question and it has not come up for discussion at the Duluth Central Labor Body meetings. It does seem like a good idea to vote yes.

“This is another chance to allow citizens to have more impact on their government and that’s a good thing,” said Rep. Mike Sundin (DFL-Esko).

A citizens’ council on salaries for state senators and representatives would be determined by:

Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court would select one person from each congressional district who is not a judge;

Minnesota Governor would appoint one person from each congressional district.

There are a lot of other rules on council membership based on which party has the majority and such, details that the attorney general will make sure are being followed. None of the council members can be current or former legislators, constitutional officer, executive or judicial branch member.

A Minnesota legislator’s salary is $31,140 per year. They are allowed to collect a per diem for living and travel expenses seven days a week during the regular legislative session. The legislature has 67 senators and 134 representatives for a total of 201 members.

**Representing the citizens of Duluth’s District 7A has been a pleasure and very rewarding. I would appreciate your support to continue my work on behalf and for the State of Minnesota.**

Jennifer Schultz

Representative, Minnesota House District 7A
DFL and Labor Endorsed

**PLEASE VOTE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8 or vote early by contacting the city clerk’s office.**

Prepared/paid for by Jennifer Schultz Volunteer Committee, PO Box 3218, Duluth, MN 55803
YOU CAN HELP GROW SUPERIOR.

VOTE YES

BETTER CITY SUPERIOR EXPOSITION DISTRICT

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YES FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH
YES FOR SUPERIOR’S FUTURE

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Plumbers & Steamfitters Local #11 • Ironworkers Local #512

Paid for by the Better City Superior Referendum Committee
AFSCME members at Giant’s Ridge worried about privatizing of jobs

As the Iron Range cheered the opening of a new $12.7 million chalet at Giant’s Ridge last week, members of AFSCME Local 718 employed there are worried about losing their jobs.

“The old timers I work with say about every four years the idea of privatizing our jobs comes up,” said Brad Evenson, who is the interim steward.

This time around the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board, a state agency which owns the facility, and its commissioner Mark Philips created a task force to study the issue and Evenson said they’ve gone so far as to put out a request for proposals.

Sheryl Kochevar, IRRRB Communications Director, said the deadline for the Request for Proposals for a single operator of Giants Ridge was October 10 and the agency is in the process of reviewing proposals.

About a dozen AFSCME members showed up at the Oct. 17 IRRRB meeting in Eveleth to find out what they could. Their jobs were not on the agenda for that meeting but they came in a show of support for them.

“The Giants Ridge resort is owned by the state and AFSCME members are working hard to make sure it remains a public facility, operated and maintained by hard-working state employees on the Iron Range,” said AFSCME Council 5 Executive Director Elliot Seide.

For AFSCME Local 66 President Dennis Frazier, who attended the Oct 17 meeting, its just another threat to good jobs on the Range, where he lives and works.

“There is about twenty percent unemployment in the area and they want to get rid of more good paying jobs with benefits,” Frazier said. “And at their meeting the board listened to proposals for remodeling the Thunderbird Mall, with more low wage jobs.”

Just last year former Republican state Rep. Carolyn McElfatrick was again pushing to end the state ownership of Giant’s Ridge, which started in 1959 with residents clearing land so they could have a place to ski. Now two golf courses are part of the enormous facility near Biwabik.

In a *Star Tribune* article last year about the facility, Matt Swenson, a spokesperson for Governor Mark Dayton, who named Iron Range native Philips as his IRRRB commissioner after a stint at the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development said, “The IRRRB’s explicit purpose is to create jobs and economic opportunity on the Iron Range. The agency’s investment in, and operation of Giants Ridge fall squarely within that mission.”

That hardly makes Evenson feel secure about his job.

“We heard that if we lose our jobs there that we could come work on this side (at IRRRB), but most of our jobs are blue color and these are more technology jobs and there aren’t enough jobs,” said Evenson, a mechanic. He said workers have heard from some IRRRB board members that their jobs are secure.

“There aren’t any guarantees if the place goes private is how we feel,” said Evenson. He said workers have even heard that early retirements may be offered to 17 union members in order to make the privatization transition easier.

AFSCME 718’s Brad Evenson, left, expressed his concerns Oct. 17 about their Giant’s Ridge jobs being privatized by the IRRRB to board member Rep. Rob Ecklund, who said it wouldn’t happen with that pro-labor board. Joining the conversation were AFSCME 66 President Dennis Frazier and AFSCME Council 5 President Judy Wahlberg.

“I will vigorously and loudly oppose any and all attempts to privatize and/or decertify unionized state employees anywhere in our great state, especially the Giant’s Ridge facility which legendary Governor Rudy Perpich promoted and supported.”

~Rep. Tom Anzelc
IRRRB Chair (DFL-District 5B)

How you vote is your decision, but please get out and vote Tuesday, November 8!

That is, of course, if you haven’t already. In Minnesota you don’t need an excuse to vote early by absentee ballot.

Contact your city clerk or county auditor, especially if you’re going to be away from your polling place Nov. 8. For voting information visit sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting

Visit www.ibew31.com and scroll down for a link to a list of IBEW-endorsed candidates who are the best choices for protecting our working families.

IBEW Local 31

Paid for by voluntary Committee On Political Education contributions
Please support the Head of the Lakes United Way Campaign

The Head of the Lakes United Way campaign is well under way with many union endorsements! You may see, or have already seen, your union or the company you work for deliver campaign pledge forms, host campaign kick-off events, or have Head of the Lakes United Way staff present at a meeting.

The Head of the Lakes United Way is a network of local community-based agencies that serves Ashland-Bayfield, Greater Duluth, the North Shore and Superior-Douglass County. Your financial gifts stay in your community and are invested in programs where they will create the greatest positive change.

Head of the Lakes United Way improves lives by mobilizing communities. But we can’t do it alone. Together, we are the solution. It’s us...PLUS you.

- $25 provides an individual a weeks’ worth of meals at a drop-in kitchen.
- $100 provides four crisis/mental health sessions for a homeless youth.
- $10/week teaches a person skills leading to employment.
- $15/week gives three children a 90% reduction in dental disease.

Whatever you give to help our campaign adds up to enrichment for youth, safety for victims, life-enhancing opportunities for seniors, help for those in crisis and more.

Through your support of the Head of the Lakes United Way campaign you help support the AFL-CIO Community Services program. The Community Services program, a partnership between the Duluth AFL-CIO Central Labor Body and Head of the Lakes United Way, has provided services to Duluth and the surrounding areas for more than 50 years.

Giving back is a union tradition, and important to this partnership is the contribution of time, talent and resources. This program helps union members and their families with transportation, utilities, rent, eviction avoidance, foreclosures, home repairs, food assistance and much more through the member emergency assistance fund and referrals.

Events and programs carried out by the Community Services committee and union volunteers include: the Duluth AFL-CIO Labor Day Picnic children’s area, Workers’ Memorial Day, United Way’s Day of Caring, National Association of Letter Carriers Annual Food Drive, Holiday food basket and gift programs, tax site preparation, cold weather clothing drives, services to the unemployed, and emergency assistance administration to name a few.

Union members serve on community boards, volunteer their time and talent, and GIVE to the Head of the Lakes United Way campaign that supports agencies our union families and community members need and use.

For more information on the Community Services program or the Head of the Lakes United Way campaign, please email or call Rachel Loeffler-Kemp, rloeffler-kemp@hlunitedway.org or 218-726-4775.

I appreciate my Labor and DFL endorsements!

Rep. Rob Ecklund
Minnesota House District 3A
And I’ll appreciate your vote Tuesday, Nov. 8!

Paid for by the Rob Ecklund for 3A Committee

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Paid for by the Rob Ecklund for 3A Committee

Minnesota does better with DFL leadership

By Dan Mikel, Minnesota State Retiree Council

The late Senator Paul Wellstone is usually credited with saying WE ALL DO BETTER WHEN WE ALL DO BETTER. He was right.

What do we expect from our elected state officials? We expect their support for our important issues. If they are there for us on issues, we will support them as candidates. As indicated in the 2016 Minnesota AFL-CIO Legislative Report, we have some very specific issues.

- Transportation funding. Minnesota’s seniors need transportation options in order to live independently as long as we can. We need safe roads and bridges as well as good public transportation.
- Paid Family Leave. Paid time off is not just for taking care of babies or young children. Working people sometimes need paid family leave to be with senior family members as we deal with the infirmities and indignities of aging.
- Education. Our formal education probably ended long ago, as well as our children’s. But we do have grandchildren and great-grandchildren in school. Early childhood education is necessary and we also need to invest in infrastructure so that all students – no matter where they live – have high quality programs, teachers and learning environments.
- Bonding. The state needs to invest in its infrastructure. Besides roads and bridges, we need to make higher education buildings more energy efficient. Building projects create hundreds of good-paying jobs. That’s thousands of people pouring more money into the economy and into our own Social Security and Medicare programs!
- Unemployment Benefits. Minnesota’s unemployment insurance program is very flexible. Last year the Legislature saved businesses more than $800 million in reduced taxes. We oppose any attempts to “spend down” the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund which could jeopardize a critical safety net for unemployed workers. We do not want to “turn back the clock” and step on the backs of today’s workers and their families.
- Taxes. Paying taxes is not anyone’s idea of having fun, but retirees know from experience that we need to keep revenues strong to continue improving Minnesota’s economy. Cutting taxes risks our ability to continue funding the priorities identified in this article. Why risk the ability to maintain a decent standard of living for Minnesotans now or in the future?
- We all do better when we all do better.

We have plenty of state-related issues. We have identified and endorsed candidates who support these issues and others important to retirees such as pension security. We have made telephone calls knocked on doors and written post cards on behalf of these candidates. Now it’s up to each and every one of us. We need to vote. The world belongs to those who show up. We need to show up at the polls. You don’t have to wait until November 8. You can do that now.

We will all do better.

PS. While we have been focused on state issues and state candidates in Minnesota the media has been focused on the presidential candidates. There are lots of good, solid positive reasons to support Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine. For starters, try googling 112 reasons for supporting Hillary and you’ll find some informative reading.

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We will all do better.

PS. While we have been focused on state issues and state candidates in Minnesota the media has been focused on the presidential candidates. There are lots of good, solid positive reasons to support Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine. For starters, try googling 112 reasons for supporting Hillary and you’ll find some informative reading.
Something craven infects political candidates as the days dwindle down to a precious few, especially when prospects for victory appear slimmer than an emaciated giraffe in a fun house mirror. It may be darkest before the dawn, but for those scheduled to be executed at first light, the darkness triggers a kind of dastardly creativity that those made of lesser stuff might characterize as desperation.

The late hour slandering of an opponent has come to be called the October Surprise and considering the volatile history of this year’s campaign we should be prepared for copious disclosures of gargantuan proportions. Not mere October Surprises, but October Lightning Bolts Tossed by Odin Himself, October 80 Megaton Hydrogen Bombshells and October Exposes That Will Make Your Mouth Hang Open Long Enough To Attract Bottle Flies.

And with one week of November in the mix this time around, even more delicious salacious wickedness awaits. Here’s a sample of the advertent and inadvertent we can expect in the final five weeks of this—The Most Important Election of Your Lifetime. Yes. Again.

OCTOBER 2. Breitbart News discovers that when the first words of Hillary Clinton’s deleted emails from October of 2009 are arranged chronologically, a love letter to Lucifer is revealed in which she calls him “Smoochie.”

OCTOBER 3. Moveon.org posts a video of Donald Trump shouting the phrase “You’re fired” to photos of family members.

OCTOBER 4. During the Vice Presidential debate, moderators and Longwood University audience members inexplicably fall asleep. Later the CDC dubs the new phenomenon “MDHS: Mass Droning Hypnosis Syndrome” and urges the FCC to prohibit future events from being broadcast on car radios.

OCTOBER 8. Fox News interviews a high school classmate of Hillary Clinton, who recalls the future Secretary of State going door to door supporting Barry Goldwater and referring to Lyndon Johnson as “a southern-fried booger.”

OCTOBER 10. Photographs showing Donald Trump poking a group of special needs preschoolers with a stick are laughed off by the candidate as “political correctness run amuck.” His poll numbers rise.

OCTOBER 14. On route to a campaign stop in South Carolina, Hillary Clinton rushes into a burning building to rescue a litter of newborn kittens. Her poll numbers do not budge.

OCTOBER 22. Donald Trump explains that pushing an old lady in a wheelchair down a flight of stairs was a therapeutic attempt to jar loose her cramped muscles. His poll numbers rise.

OCTOBER 24. Bill Clinton is revealed to have adopted the Twitter handle “Carlos Danger Jr.”

OCTOBER 26. Hillary Clinton trips on a curb and Sean Hannity calls for her withdrawal due to her obvious incurable case of metastasized brain cancer. Her poll numbers drop.

OCTOBER 28. Murky footage from a surveillance camera of Donald Trump shooting a stranger in the middle of Fifth Avenue in New York City racks up 3 million hits on Youtube in 4 hours. His poll numbers rise.

NOVEMBER 1. A report surfaces that Donald Trump has a calendar in which October has 32 days. The candidate agrees many people have told him this. Important people. Top people. Despite evidence to the contrary, supporters feel in their heart that it must be true and make plans to vote a day late.

NOVEMBER 8. Trump loses.