Labor working for election

In this last week before election day, area labor is focused on getting out the vote for its endorsed candidates from the presidential top of the ticket to school board races near the bottom. After many months of work, and in spite of the wide difference between candidates, no one is willing to place bets on who the winners will be in many big contests. Think of it. President Romney? What do you think labor’s prospects would be under that administration. Especially if he has a Republican-controlled House and Senate to destroy the middle class and unions.

Somehow conservative interests have wormed their way into the thinking of even middle class trade unionists. “I can’t believe some of the phone calls I’ve had,” said Mary Jo Connolly, a retired teacher who volunteers for labor’s political campaigns every year. Too many union members don’t understand that Republican elected officials don’t want to protect the middle class, they want to destroy it to help their friends.

“Is anyone seriously expecting a member of the 1% to work for the interests of the 99% as our president,” asks Carlton County Central Labor Body president Mike Kuitu about Romney. “Friends don’t let friends vote Republican. We have great DFL candidates. Vote for them!”

The rest of this week the whirlwind will continue until voters get their say next Tuesday. President Bill Clinton was in Duluth yesterday. A tour bus with Senator Amy Klobuchar, Governor Mark Dayton and others is circling the region today and tomorrow. Vice President Joe Biden is expected in Superior Friday.

There’s no doubt the stakes are high and no one knows how the 9% of undecided voters will decide the election.

With the Supreme Court’s Citizens United ruling, money has poisoned our elections. Republicans and their Super PAC allies have outspent Democrats by $131.6 million, and they’ve got $169 million in the bank to use before the election. Money talks, unfortunately.

Getting the rich richer is plank number one of the GOP platform. Cutting taxes for them is still their easy way as Bush tax cuts are still in place. “Bush Tax cuts have never worked as promised, they didn’t produce good paying jobs, but they did help the rich get richer,” said Kuitu. “The wealthy, banks, and corporations are literally sitting on trillions of dollars in cash. The richest 400 Americans have more wealth now than the

See labor works...page 2

Endorsed Candidates

www.mnaflcio.org
www.wisaflcio.org

U.S. President
Pres. Barack Obama
VP Joe Biden

U.S. Senate
Amy Klobuchar - MN
Tammy Baldwin - WI

U.S. House
Rick Nolan - MN 8
Pat Kreitlow - WI 7

MINNESOTA

Anti-marriage - No

District 3
Senator Tom Bakk
Rep. David Dill - 3A
Rep. Mary Murphy - 3B

District 5
Senator Tom Saxhaug
Rep. Tom Anzelc - 5B

District 6
Senator David Tomassoni
Rep. Carly Melin - 6A
Jason Metsa - 6B

District 7
Senator Roger Reinert
Rep. Tom Huntley - 7A
Erik Simonson - 7B

District 11
Senator Tony Lourey
Mike Sundin - 11A
Tim Faust - 11B

St. Louis County Commissioner
Steve O’Neil - Dist. 2
Debbie Isabell-Nelson - D3
Peg Sweeney - Dist. 5

Lake County Commissioner
Brad Jones - Dist. 2

WISCONSIN Assembly
Rep. Nick Milroy - 73
Rep. Janet Bewley - 74

PLEASE VOTE Tuesday, Nov. 6

Voting info on page 8
Selinski, Rangers create their own pol ad

If you see Tom Selinski running around with an orange five gallon pail, drop a few bucks in it. A number of folks did just that last Thursday at Labor Movie Night in Wellstone Hall.

Earlier this month Tom had enough of the Koch Brothers and Sheldon Adelson using their billions to support conservative candidates and fill the air waves with attack ads.

Now most of us would only be able to shrug our shoulders and do our best to ignore the TV ads. But Selinski, a member of IBEW Local 242, happens to have all the equipment needed to create his own ad.

You’ll remember him as the producer of the acclaimed film “Spies In Steel.” He taught himself how to be a filmmaker so he could tell his family’s story of being blackballed on the Iron Range for union activity. He next did a documentary on the Tyomies Eteenpain newspaper, “For The Common Good.”

“So of the ads I was seeing were just terrible and some were being pulled off the air, so I thought why not,” Selinski said. The Chisholm native decided he’d help create his group and Regular Folks of the Iron Range was born.

Regular Folks is a grass roots group of people that is tired of all of the super PAC money from billionaires that is trying to buy the re-election of Republican Rep. Chip Cravaack in northern Minnesota’s 8th Congressional District.

With his equipment in tow, Selinski headed north from his Duluth home to video friends on the Iron Range.

His 30-second ad addresses Cravaack as the hated “company man” that many on the Iron Range view him as.

“What really got us was that BS ad about how Cravaack is a union guy,” said Tom Selinski, the chairman of the Regular Folks Committee. “Real working people don’t have a chance to tell their story when every minute of TV time is swamped with special interests ads. So we shot our own commercial and raised the money to show it. It might not be slick and it might not have a million dollars behind it, but it tells it like it is.”

The ad was shown in Wellstone Hall as part of Labor Movie Night and was a hit with the 80 people in attendance.

“The people in the ads are real Rangers, not actors,” Selinski said. “We had fun doing it, and we might not be done yet.”

You won’t find the ad on network TV stations locally. The cost was prohibitive. But with a friend in the business, Selinski will have their ad air 1,600 times on cable and satellite channels including FOX News and Sports, ESPN, Golf, Discovery, and many others.

The group has a website up at regularfolks.org that has the video and other short outtakes of Cravaack that can be downloaded or viewed.

Retired, about to? Watch this

A video discussion of major financial issues confronting current and future retirees has been produced by the Minnesota State Retiree Council, AFL-CIO in collaboration with the Labor Education Service, University of Minnesota.

http://mediamill.cla.umn.edu/mediamill/display/173515 is the website for the 7-part video which examines problems affecting Social Security, pensions and affordable health care - including Medicare - and suggests solutions to assure that all Americans retire with dignity and security.

Groups and organizations can arrange for a facilitated presentation of the video, with discussion and printed materials, by emailing Dan Mikkel at mikelssp@comcast.net. You can also leave a message on the Retiree Council phone 1-800-652-9004.

Help Laborers Local 1091 meet their Food Drive goal of 500 pounds!

Mark Your Ballot Tuesday, Nov. 6 for Erik Simonson

I.U.O.E. Local 70

Monthly Arrowhead Regional Meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2012, 5:00 P.M.
Duluth Labor Center, Hall B
Dave Monsour, Business Manager, (651) 646-4566

Sheet Metal Workers’ Local 10 Retirees’ Luncheon
Tuesday, Nov. 6, 1:00 p.m.
Sammy’s Pizza-West Duluth

Labor working election...from page 10

poorest 150 million Americans. To put that another way, imagine that the population of Wrenshall, MN has more wealth than the population of the 42 lowest populated states.”

One Republican strategy is to make citizens so disgusted with politics and government that they won’t even vote. That worked two years ago when Jim Oberstar lost.

“All the races are too close to call, even with Obama doing well in Wisconsin last time,” said Warren Bender, Superior Federation of Labor Corresponding Secretary. “We won’t know who won until late election night, so every eligible voter has to get out and vote.”

While everyone could agree that nothing matters if Obama isn’t re-elected, many are still upset at tea party wins in 2010 that saw icons like Oberstar toppled.

Rick Nolan has energized many with his campaign against Republican Rep. Chip Cravaack in Minnesota’s 8th Congressional District. That contest is the most expensive U.S. House of Representatives race in the nation. Nolan served in the best to from 1975-1981 and has Democratic big hitters coming to the region on his behalf. Energetic, very smart, and very good on his feet addressing a crowd, Nolan’s platform fits labor’s perfectly. But he is just ahead of Cravaack in polling.

But North East Area Labor Council president Alan Netland is feeling pretty good about the work labor has done in his seven county region.

“I feel like we in the labor community have been better organized for this election than in years past,” Netland said. “I am optimistic about our local and regional candidates. Nationally is someone else’s call. It will be good to have a number of newly elected union members from our area in the legislature.”

There would be Fire Fighter Erik Simonson in Duluth’s 7B, Painter’s Mike Sundin in 11A, and NELC field coordinator Jason Mesta in 6B.

Have you heard you need to get out and vote? Early if you’re deer hunting on Tuesday.

Many Medicare options. One right choice for you.

As your local licensed agent, I can help you make a plan for Medicare. Just want health coverage? Need a prescription drug plan? A plan that covers both? You have options with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus:

- Blue Essentials (HMO-PPO) combines health and drug coverage in one low-cost plan with no deductibles
- Minimum Blue (Cost) has three plan options, including our lowest-priced option for health coverage only
- Senior GoldSM lets you build the most comprehensive health coverage available
- MedicareBlueRxSM Rx (PDP) gives you two options for stand-alone prescription drug coverage

Contact me today to learn more.

Wade Smith
Duluth Insurance Agency
218-724-4507
TTY 711

Blue Cross and Blue Plus are health plans with Medicare contracts. Blue Cross is a Medicare-approved Part D sponsor. Plans are available to residents of the service area. You can also contact Blue Cross or Blue Plus for plan information or to enroll: 1-877-662-2583, TTY 711, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Central time, daily.

Women's Comprehensive Health Plan of Minnesota, a non-profit independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

I.U.O.E. Local 70

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Sammy’s Pizza-West Duluth

Mark Your Ballot Tuesday, Nov. 6 for Erik Simonson

MN House of Representatives • District 7B

Labor & DFL Endorsed

Erik is President of Fire Fighters Local 101 and Assistant Fire Chief for the City of Duluth. He will continue the strong labor voice western Duluth has had in our State Legislature and work to strengthen the middle class. Erik’s name will be on the ballot November 6.

Find out more at www.erikfor7b.com

Paid for by Duluth AFL-CIO Central Labor Body COPE
There was a lot of fun, and good times remembered, at events October 25 in spite of it being the 10th anniversary of the Wellstone tragedy. (It’s Halloween so please forgive my poor taste again in the mask for my mast.) Paul had a great laugh, loved to use it, and behaved like a cartoon character when he was having fun. He could be all over the place in a second. One of a kind. For the past ten years I think most of us have resigned ourselves to the fact that we’d never see another like him, human being and especially elected official.

Rick Nolan has changed my mind. His political positions, his fire, his energy, are positively Wellstonian. I was taken in by Nolan the first time I met him and he has continued to buoy my spirits and hope every time since. That’s rare ground. I’m really glad Nolan decided to run for Congress again after serving in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1975 to 1981 and leaving on his own accord. I’m not the only one.

Iowa Senator Tom Harkin said the morning of Oct. 25 at the pancake memorial rally that “no one embodies more the spirit of Paul Wellstone, who stands for, and stands up for,” than Nolan. Harkin said there’s something about someone who sticks up for values. That’s high praise coming from Wellstone’s best friend in the U.S. Senate.

In 1968 Harkin married a rural Redwood County, Minnesota girl from a Republican family. “I never got to change his mind,” she says, “I only knew Harkin.” Nolan responded, “Anyone with that ability can win any election anywhere.”

As part of the Oct. 25 memorial events we watched the 2005 film Wellstone! by Laurie Stern and others. It’s the fourth time I’ve seen it but it’s always amazed at how much I’ve forgotten upon rewatching at the memorial on the Iron Range earlier that day a number of folks took the mic to recite famous Wellstone quotes, including the “we all do better when we all do better” one that wasn’t an original of his. Jim Hightower’s daddy used it. Wellstone did have a lot of great ones of his own.

In Wellstone! he tells a gathering about his favorite quote. It’s from abolitionist Wendell Phillips from the 1850s who was asked why he was so agitated that he seemed to be on fire. Wellstone says Phillips responded, “I’m on fire because I have mountains of ice before me to melt.”

Editor Matthew Rothschild of the venerable, Madison, WI magazine The Progressive ended his Oct. 10, 2002 eulogy to Wellstone using that quote from Wellstone’s autobiogaphy “The Conscience of a Liberal” with Wellstone stating “So do we.” Those mountains of ice have only gotten bigger since Wellstone was murdered.

Thank Walter Mondale for being willing to step in in 2002 to run and lose to Republican Norm Coleman after Wellstone appeared to have a third senate victory in his grasp. Funny, but that loss by the Dems gave control of the Senate to the GOP. The senate lost its conscience in Wellstone, and this country has veered far to the right ever since.

Yes, Wellstone voted for the USA Patriot Act and the Defense of Marriage Act for his two worst votes. But he was so much more and so strong at holding Congress and America back from the self interest that now defines us and alienates us from the rest of the world.

Rick Nolan will melt some ice. He did it in Congress before. He will work on the mountains of ice that define us that’s where his values are. The world will be a better place for it, and so will America.

The non-profit Labor World, Inc. is the official publication of the Duluth AFL-CIO Central Labor Body. It is an educational, advocacy newspaper for workers and unions. The views and opinions submitted and expressed in the Labor World do not necessarily reflect the views of the paper, its Board of Directors or staff, the Duluth AFL-CIO Central Labor Body, its affiliated unions, their officers, or staff.

Voting GOP is union busting
By Dan O’Neill, President Duluth AFL-CIO Central Labor Body

A vote for any Republican is a vote to continue the right-wing agenda to destroy unions and our effort to make life better for all working families. Do you believe in collective bargaining? lower the minimum wage? roll back the clock to the 1970s on workplace safety? By voting for someone who endorsed Paul Ryan’s budget proposal for 2013, you are voting to end job creation efforts, give a tax cut to the rich, and cut Medicare, Social Security and unemployment benefits. Any vote for the GOP is a vote for the rich.

Republican Presidents have never had any concern for working families, but all of a sudden we hear their great concern for the middle class. What a joke. These same folks are now calling for bipartisan action after four years obliterating every issue. President Obama and the Democrats walked to address.

The Union movement is why America has a middle class. Please look at the big picture when you go to the polls and not just one issue. Let’s not let conservative interests win their divide and conquer strategy. Solidarity now, solidarity forever.

Chip voted to cut RR benefits
Editor:

There are more than 5,200 railroad families in the 8th Congressional District. Cravaack voted to cut their retirement annuities. His vote would drastically cut current pensions by up to 10% of current annuities, reduce disability benefits and totally abolish the 60/30 retirement program for all railroad employees.

Ryan’s budget assumes taxpayer money supplements railroad retirement annuities as it falsely states his plan would save taxpayers several billion dollars. This is far from the truth. Ryan proposes to conform Railroad Retirement Tier 1 (Social Security equivalent) to Social Security recipients. Under current law, Railroad Retirement Tier 2 benefits, funded by the railroads and employees, absorb any costs by which railroad retirement benefits exceed what Social Security would pay.

There are more than 1 million U.S. railroad families who depend on railroad retirement. Railroad families in the 8th Congressional District should know how Cravaack voted to cut benefits. Your vote Nov. 6 could affect future railroad pensions.

Thomas J. Dwyer, Coon Rapids, MN, President, National Association of Retired & Veteran Railway Employees Inc.

Glen M. Nelson, Duluth, MN, National Legislative Committee, NARVRE (www.narvre.org)
Voting is very important, but solidarity created by mobilizing is lasting

“When too many Americans don’t vote or participate, some see apathy and despair. I see disappointment and even outrage. And I believe that out of this frustration can come hope and action.” - Senator Paul Wellstone

By Zach Sias, Field Coordinator, North East Area Labor Council

Those Paul Wellstone comments are indicative of the situation that we are in this election cycle. We are at a turning point. On the morning of November 7th, we can wake up to a pro-worker majority in our state legislature or it will remain in the control of the state GOP legislators who have vowed to double-down on efforts to pass “Right to Work.”

The goals of the NEALC are to improve the lives of and increase power for working families, bring fairness and dignity to the workplace, and secure social equity. Considering the incredibly divergent paths available during this election cycle at all levels of government, we can make sure that our cause does not lose ground.

“Tea Partiers are attacking our rights as union members, women, students, and citizens. Now is the time for us to act in solidarity to send the message to these anti-worker politicians and corporations that we do not consent to their governance,”

As Noam Chomsky said, “force is not the end goal. As a movement, our focus is on working toward and facilitating effective and lasting change. A key tactic that we have readily available to us is through mobilizing working families into participating at every level. While voting is important, the relationships that are developed through volunteering for Get-Out-The-Vote and other political involvement are beneficial for advancing true solidarity.”

The choices are clear and we must continue to do everything we can to reach out to fellow union members at work, at their doors, and on the phone. When union members take the time to participate in our electoral process, we win. Not only must we stand together as working women and men; we must move to action together. It should go without saying that electing pro-labor candidates is not the end goal. As a movement, our focus is on working toward and facilitating effective and lasting change. A key tactic that we have readily available to us is through mobilizing working families into participating at every level. While voting is important, the relationships that are developed through volunteering for Get-Out-The-Vote and other political involvement are beneficial for advancing true solidarity.

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African-Americans waited 94 years for the right to vote, another 94 years to make it meaningful. All you probably had to do was turn 18, but the focus is on the days immediately preceding the election: November 3rd – November 6th. Please contact me to sign up: Zach Sias, (218) 409-246, zach@nealc.org.

Thank you.

Women waited 144 years for the right to vote

African-Americans waited 94 years for the right to vote, another 94 years to make it meaningful.

All you probably had to do was turn 18.

Make your voice heard. Vote Tuesday Nov. 6.

Debbie Isabell-Nelson

Labor & DFL Endorsed

Debbie is a Builder:

- Of Initiatives & Partnerships:
  - City-wide crime prevention initiative
  - Morgan Park sewer/infrastructure project

- Of Community and Energy:
  - New $60,000 playground in Morgan Park
  - Riverfront Communities Collaborative

I will be honored to serve as your full-time St. Louis County commissioner. That’s what the job requires.

Thanks for your support and your vote Nov. 6!

www.debbieforduluth.com

Paid for by Duluth AFL-CIO Central Labor Body COPE

Re-Elect Randy Bolen

Mayor of Two Harbors

- 17-year member BMWE #1710
- DM&IR/CN Structures Carpenter on the Two Harbors Docks
- Endorsed by the 17 unions of the Duluth Building and Construction Trades Council
- Family: Wife, Tara (11-year member United Steelworkers, St Marys Hospital), and Son, Zach

I’ll work hard every day to bring jobs and prosperity to our community – that is job one of a mayor. Without jobs and economic development, you have no sustainability.

Paid for by Randy Bolen Campaign Committee, PO Box 205, Two Harbors, MN 55616
Should corporations be able to control speech? They do now in America.

By Larry Cohen
President, Communication Workers of America

Picture this: A multibillion-dollar company wants to influence the opinions and actions of its employees. Executives hold mandatory town hall meetings where they imply that workers better toe the company line or risk being fired. On the job, supervisors push the company’s views on their subordinates. The corporation starts monitoring employees’ conversations on Facebook and Twitter. Dissenters are threatened, and moles are planted.

It’s just another day at too many U.S. companies, where workers who want a voice in their workplace face campaigns of harassment, intimidation and worse. But increasing-audience campaigns of harassment, intimidation and worse. But increasing-audience campaigns of harassment, intimidation and worse. But increasing-audience campaigns of harassment, intimidation and worse. But increasing-audience campaigns of harassment, intimidation and worse. But increasing-audience campaigns of harassment, intimidation and worse.

“Nothing illegal about you talking to your employees about what you believe is best for the business, because I think that will figure into their election decision, their voting decision and of course doing that with your family and your kids as well,” he said.

CEOs are already on it. Mike White, the CEO of Rite-Hite industries, a major employer in Milwaukee, sent an email to employees stating that they “should understand the personal consequences to them of having our tax rates increase dramatically if President Obama is re-elected, forcing taxpayers to fund President Obama’s future deficits and social programs (including Obamacare), which require bigger government.”

White may be running into some trouble in Wisconsin law prohibits employers from making “threats intended to influence the political opinions or actions of the employees.” But so far, Citizens United has had a broad reach; a challenge to “Citizens United” by the state of Montana was struck down this summer.

The Koch Brothers mailed 45,000 employees a flyer endorsing Romney and a letter warning that their livelihood depends on how they vote. Westgate Resorts CEO David Siegel sent an email to thousands of employees, strongly suggesting that if Barack Obama is reelected it “means fewer jobs, less benefits and certainly less opportunity for everyone.” ASG Software Solutions CEO Arthur Allen also forecasted massive cuts and layoffs in an Obama second term in an email to his workers.

Unfortunately, the labor movement knows the dangers of this culture of fear all too well. But corporate campaigning at work is not free speech, whether directed against collective bargaining rights or in favor of a political candidate. Money and economic power are not speech and cannot substitute for the rights of every member of our society to be more engaged in their own decision making.

For decades workplace rights have been attacked. Now no limits means our political rights can be threatened as well. We need to build a political movement for democracy that makes it clear that money is not speech and that in our 21st century democracy, the rights of all of us to participate effectively must be cherished.

Michael P. Cascino, Esq.

CASCINO VAUGHAN
LAW OFFICES
1110 Old World Third Street Suite 405
Milwaukee Wisconsin 53203
(414)226-0241
or (800)783-0081

Allen D. Vaughan, Esq.
That can begin to change next Tuesday when voters go to the polls in the Presidential General Election. Wisconsin is considered one of the swing states in the re-election chances of President Obama and Vice President Biden. There will have to be a huge shift in how voters are feeling for them to vote Democratic after so many recent elections have found some very conservative Republicans winning.

In Superior, retired Superior Federation of Teachers Local 202 member Judy Hack has been leading the get out the vote efforts on behalf of labor-endorsed candidates from the top to the ticket on down to Nick Milroy, who is running unopposed in his re-election to the State Assembly.

"We really need bodies in this final week for doorknocks and phone banks to bring Wisconsin back," Hack said. "It’s head to head in Wisconsin, and Iowa, and we need to offset the Republicans." She said Republicans not only have a huge financial advantage but have gotten much better at grassroots politics like doorknocks and phone banks.

Labor activity in Superior is being coordinated out of the International Longshoremen’s Local 1037 union hall, 424 Tower Avenue, 715-817-8130.

Hack said anyone is welcome to come help. The office will be open Thursday and Friday from noon to 8 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday noon to 8 p.m., and all day Monday.

If you don’t like the way Wisconsin has been leaning you’d better do something to help, and Hack knows what to have you do.

Not only is Wisconsin a critical state for Obama’s re-election, but the U.S. Senate race to fill the seat of retiring Senator Herb Kohl is critical for Democrats nationally.

Tammy Baldwin is the AFL-CIO endorsed candidate. She has served Wisconsin’s 2nd Congressional District in the U.S. House since 1999.

“On November 6th we have the great opportunity to send a true Wisconsin progressive to Washington,” says Wisconsin State AFL-CIO president Phil Neuenfeldt. “A vote for Tammy Baldwin for U.S. Senate is a vote to help Wisconsinites across the state. It is a vote for job creation and a vote to stop the outsourcing of American manufacturing. “Tammy will be a voice for the middle class. She will stand up to special interests and fight to preserve Medicare and Medicaid. She is a sponsor of the Buffett Rule which states that millionaires and billionaires pay the same tax rate as middle class Americans.

“Tammy voted to save the American auto industry. Her vote saved nearly 1 million American jobs and 28,000 jobs in Wisconsin.

“Tammy is honest, hard-working and trustworthy. We can count on her to get the job done and get the job done right.”

Pat Kreitlow of Chippewa Falls is the AFL-CIO endorsed candidate in Wisconsin’s 7th Congressional District. He served in the Wisconsin State Senate from 2007 through 2010, when he was defeated for re-election. He was very well thought of by his senate colleagues who voted him their president pro tempore and had him give their response to a State of the State address of Gov. Jim Doyle.

Retired Congressman David Obey recruited Kreitlow to run against Republican Sean Duffy for his old seat. Kreitlow, a former TV journalist, has been running full time since April 2011.

The Douglas County Democrats are staffing an office at 1810 Belknap in Superior and could also use help in their get out the vote efforts. Their phone number is 715-204-4053.

**ATTN: WISCONSIN VOTERS**

**Labor endorsements aren’t easy to come by. These are the candidates that we know will work to improve the lives of all working families:**

President Barack Obama
Vice President Joe Biden

Tammy Baldwin
US Senate –Wisconsin

Pat Kreitlow
Wisconsin 7th CD Congressman

Nick Milroy
Wisconsin State Assembly

**VOTE LABOR. Vote for Rick Nolan Tuesday, November 6th**

Thank you to my friends in Labor for your Support.

In Solidarity, Rick Nolan

*Paid for by the Superior Federation of Labor, Marlene Case-Treasurer*
Target sugar added to Crystal Sugar boycott

The National AFL-CIO boycott of American Crystal Sugar that began October 15, 2012 has been expanded to include other sugar products made by ACS. The boycott extends to brands that package American Crystal Sugar products under different names. This would include Target’s “Market Pantry” sugar sold at stores in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and North Dakota.

There are some sugar beet processors that are not affiliated with American Crystal Sugar, including in Michigan. But ACS is the big dog in the industry and supplies sugar in many forms for many American food manufacturers. The best way to know that you are not supporting ACS is to buy cane sugar, such as the C&H variety sold in stores.

1,300 American Crystal Sugar workers, members of a number of local unions of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers, in Minnesota, North Dakota and Iowa have been locked out for over 14 months.

American Crystal Sugar management refused to budge on its demands to include language in the contract that would restrict seniority rights and increase the use of contract workers. When workers rejected that language, the company locked the workers out and hired replacements.

The lock out has devastated families in the three states. Some locked out workers have family members that are beet growers. The corporate greed of a hugely successful company is willing to destroy families to improve their bottom line even more.

Locked out kids tell their story

EAST GRAND FORKS - As the AFL-CIO launches a national boycott of American Crystal Sugar, the children of locked-out workers appear in a new video that shows their struggles in the 15 months since employees have been shut out of their jobs.

Some 1,300 members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco & Grain Millers union have been locked out since Aug. 1, 2011, at facilities in Minnesota, North Dakota and Iowa. American Crystal Sugar is the nation’s largest producer of sugar from beets. On Oct. 2, the AFL-CIO endorsed a nationwide consumer boycott of American Crystal Sugar products to begin Monday, Oct. 15.


Mike Sundin for District 11A

Mike will vote to improve the lives of working families. Mike will vote...

✓ to create family sustaining jobs
✓ to restore our Homestead Credit
✓ to restore Local Government Aid
✓ to restore public education funding
✓ for a more progressive tax system
✓ for health care for all
✓ to improve state transportation

VOTE! MIKE SUNDIN

Endorsed by Democrats, Farmers, & Labor!

Prepared/paid for by Sundin Volunteer Comm., PO Box 193, Esko, MN 55733

Mike Sundin

Minnesota House of Representatives District 11A

Mike will vote to improve the lives of working families. Mike will vote...

✓ to create family sustaining jobs
✓ to restore our Homestead Credit
✓ to restore Local Government Aid
✓ to restore public education funding
✓ for a more progressive tax system
✓ for health care for all
✓ to improve state transportation
Here’s voting information for Tues., Nov. 6

Elaboration campaign season is thankfully almost over and now you get to have your say.

You need to vote one way or another in next Tuesday, Nov 6’s Presidential General Election and help make a decision on America’s future over the next four years.

You can vote absentee if you can’t vote election day at your city clerk, county auditor, or township clerk.

Most offices are open Monday though Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Contact your township clerk to find out how to vote with that office.

Extended hours for walk-in absentee voting are available at the Duluth City Clerk’s Office Room 330, City Hall this Saturday, Nov. 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Monday, Nov. 5 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

You have to be registered to vote and you are if you have voted in the last four years and not moved. If your name has changed you need to show your new identification.

Pre-registration deadlines have passed.

In Wisconsin and Minnesota you are able to register to vote on election day if you are at your correct polling site. For Duluth polling site information call 730-5500 or visit pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us.

Voter Eligibility
You may vote in Minnesota on election day if you:
* be at least 18 years old on election day;
* are a citizen of the USA;
* will have resided in Minnesota for 20 days immediately preceding election day;
* are not under court-ordered guardianship in which the court order revokes your right to vote;
* have not been found by a court to be legally incompetent to vote; and
* have the right to vote because, if you have been convicted of a felony, your felony sentence has expired (been completed) or you have been discharged from your sentence.

Registering to Vote
To vote in Minnesota, you must register as a voter. You may register to vote by mail or in-person at your county courthouse (at least 20 days before the election to appear on the roster) or you may register at your polling place on election day.

Election Day Registration:
Registration at your polling site on election day is available by presenting one of the following:
A valid Minnesota driver's license, learner's permit or Minnesota I.D. card (or receipt for any of these) that contains the voter's current address.
A tribal I.D. card that contains the name, current address (must be in the precinct where registering), signature and picture of the tribal member.
A “Notice of Late Registration” postcard.
A prior valid registration at another address in the same precinct.

A registered voter of that precinct who will sign an oath vouching that the person registering is a resident of that precinct. Registered voters may vouch for up to 15 people (this limit does not apply to employees of residential facilities). For residential facility residents, an employee at the facility (even if that employee is not registered to vote in that precinct) can vouch that the person lives in the district if the facility provided the county with a list of employees 20 days before the election.

A bill for electric, gas, water, solid waste, sewer, telephone or cable television service with a due date within 30 days of election day that contains the voter's name and current address AND one of the following that contains the voter's name and photograph:
Minnesota driver's license or Minnesota I.D. card.
Tribal I.D. card.
U.S. passport.
U.S. military I.D. card.
Identification card of a post-secondary educational institution in Minnesota.

College students may use one of the following:
A student photo I.D., if the educational institution has certified a list of students to the county auditor.
A current student fee statement that contains the student's valid address in the precinct with a photo I.D. card.

Many questions and a sample ballot for Duluth are at www.duluthmn.gov/clerk/voting/index.cfm.

The Minnesota Secretary of State’s website has everything you need to know at www.sos.state.mn.us/index.aspx?page=4

Support your local pharmacy.
Tell your employer you want local pharmacy services. It’s better...keep it local!

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MOAN  GROAN  GRIP  DENY  GROUSE
CRITICIZE  DENOUNCE  DELAY  CONDEMN

TOLERATE  WITHDRAW  SUFFER  IGNORE  ENDURE...

Or, Take a little time and VOTE!
You’re More Powerful Than You Think! On Tues., Nov. 6 GO VOTE!
Remember how much of a pain recasts are! Al Franken won by only 312 votes!

ELECT
LEE DAVIS
Lake County Commissioner, District 1

• 23 years at North Shore Mining
• 6 years Crystal Bay Township Supervisor
• Desert Storm Veteran
• Lake County Tower Committee
• Lake County HWY 61 Corridor Committee
• Small Business Owner
• Labor Endorsed

Committed & Experienced Leadership for Efficient & Effective County Government

Sweeney
St. Louis County Commissioner- District 5

DFL, AFLCIO Central Labor Body and AFSCME Endorsed

A Proven Leader Fighting for YOU!
Peg is your full-time County Commissioner and will continue to serve your needs full-time as your accessible, responsive representative on the St. Louis County Board.

Sweeney
St. Louis County Commissioner- District 5

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40th Anniversary of Clean Water Act validates green technology = jobs

To listen to Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney, you’d think American efforts at a green economy are wasted money. You’d have gotten a different read if you’d been on the new water storage tank overlooking Lake Superior October 16.

Local leaders, including Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 11 business manager Jeff Daveau, Sr., were recognizing the 40th Anniversary of the federal Clean Water Act. Protecting America’s fresh water for 40 years has paid dividends for everyone and its created a lot of jobs and infrastructure improvements.

“It wasn’t realized by many at the time in the 1950s, 60s, and 70s that our fresh water resources were at risk,” said Duluth mayor Don Ness. “The Clean Water Act established a standard to protect our fresh water.”

Ness said in the past five years Duluth signed a consent decree for having violated the Clean Water Act for allowing untreated sewage to enter Lake Superior. Now storage tanks like the one under the new park next to Endion Station are containing those “spills.”

“It was our responsibility, not because the feds said so, because it was the right thing to do,” Ness said.

The federal government did supply $20 million in grant money to move the projects to completion.

“Water infrastructure systems are critical and offer significant opportunities to create good jobs that strengthen our economy and our communities and safeguard our community’s health,” said Daveau, Sr.

“The reality is that we must make significant investments and upgrades in order to adapt to the effects of climate change, maintain access to safe drinking water, and adequately treat storm and wastewater. And, while doing so, we can create good jobs, using American-made steel, iron and manufactured goods.”

Much of the water pipe around the country is between 40 and 100 years old. The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) gave both the nation’s drinking water and wastewater a D+ on the 2009 Report Card for America’s Infrastructure — a dangerous combination. However, fixing this problem is an opportunity to create jobs for American workers. The benefit of meeting this need is that it can create thousands of jobs. Every $1 billion invested in water infrastructure is estimated to create more than 20,000 new jobs.

“About seven billion gallons of clean drinking water a day are lost through leaking pipes,” said BlueGreen Alliance Jobs21! National Co-Chair Tarryl Clark.

Dave Zentner, past national president of the Izaak Walton League of America and representing the National Wildlife Federation, said in the late 1960s and 70s the political parties reached across the aisle in Congress to level the playing field for all with the same water quality standards for the entire nation. He said Congress saw that small communities like Duluth can have a huge impact on our national treasures like Lake Superior and so facilities like the $100 million Western Lake Superior Sanitary District could get built to protect our fresh water supply. WLSSD turned the St. Louis River from a tarry mess to a fishing river again. Much of that can be attributed to Cloquet’s Potlatch plant being retrofitted for cleaner emissions. Thousands of jobs were created and are still being created in that effort at what is now SAPPI.

“Too much of our infrastructure is 100 years old,” said Daveau. “Our flood in June opened the eyes of many to that. And some of us remember the asbestos in our water. This good technology needs to keep moving forward.”

The event also served as a state release for the BlueGreen Alliance’s policy platform on clean water entitled Clean Water, Good Jobs — a policy guideline that focuses on the public health, environmental protection and job creation potential in rebuilding America’s water and sewer infrastructure.

“Investing in water infrastructure has the potential to stimulate and support many economic sectors including construction, manufacturing, transport, and tourism,” said Clark. “It’s important that domestic sourcing provisions be part of plans to reinforce our water infrastructure. If we’re using tax dollars to rebuild our infrastructure, we should use American products made by American workers.”

The BlueGreen Alliance is a national partnership of labor unions and environmental organizations dedicated to expanding the number and quality of jobs in the green economy. Launched in 2006, the strategic partnership now brings together major U.S. labor unions and America’s most influential environmental organizations and unites more than 15 million members and supporters in pursuit of good jobs, a clean environment and a green economy. Visit www.bluegreenalliance.org.
The parties returned to the bargaining table yesterday. Over frustration with concessionary bargaining by SAPPI, USW Local 11-63 members, their families, and other supporters put up an informational picket in Cloquet Oct. 23. The parties returned to the bargaining table yesterday.

Don’t know where to turn? Dial 2-1-1 or 1-800-543-7709 or visit www.211unitedway.org

Get connected to resources throughout Minnesota! For services provided by the Community Services Program sponsored by the Duluth AFL-CIO Central Labor Body and the United Way of Greater Duluth...Call 218-726-4775

Community Services Program

Lynette Swanberg, Director
424 West Superior Street
Suite 402, Duluth, MN 55802

United Way

Write-In ROBIN GLASER
Two Harbors City Council At-Large

Experience You Can Trust

Robin has been the mayor of Two Harbors and a city council member. She is a 34-year member of UFCW Local 1189, and she’s Labor Endorsed by the Duluth Building & Construction Trades Council!

Please Mark your Ballot and Write in Robin Glaser. Thank you!

Vote “No” on Voter ID ballot question

By Senator Tom Bakk

(DFL-Cook), Minority Leader

Like you, I believe in election integrity, but setting up barriers between voters and the ballot box is not the way to improve our elections in Minnesota. By ending same day registration and absentee voting as we know it, the voter restriction amendment does not protect our right to vote, it threatens it.

I recently visited the nursing home near my home in the City of Cook, and I discovered that only one of the 28 residents had a government-issued photo ID with their current nursing home address. Under the voter restriction amendment, 27 of these senior citizens would be forced to cast a “provisional ballot” that would not be counted until they can prove their change of address to the government. It’s outrageous that the amendment fails to protect the votes of our most vulnerable seniors.

The same problem applies to Minnesotans that go off to college or join the armed services. Most college students hold a driver’s license that does not match their campus address, and their student ID card may not qualify as “government-issued” under the amendment. Worse, since military IDs do not include addresses, Minnesotans serving in the armed forces could be subject to the same “provisional ballot.” There is absolutely no excuse for complicating the voting rights of our military men and women on active-duty.

Other northern Minnesota voters will face similar obstacles. For instance, roughly 75% of Cook County residents living outside of Grand Marais rely on mail-in ballots to cast their votes. If passed, the proposed constitutional amendment would require those not voting in person to “be subject to substantially equivalent identity and eligibility verification prior to a ballot being cast or counted.” That’s it—the amendment gives no further direction on what hoops law-abiding citizens will have to jump through to mail in their ballots, but you can bet it will involve a pile of paperwork and a trip to wait in line at the Cook County Court House.

It should also concern tax payers that the cost of implementing new statewide voting procedures, including the printing of “free” photo IDs, have not been accounted for. This makes for the worst kind of unfunded mandate, and estimates put the cost to state and local governments upwards of $50 million. No matter the price tag, with local governments already struggling with budget shortfalls, the bill will no doubt be passed along to property tax payers.

Voting is the foundation of democracy. Minnesota must do everything in its power to protect the integrity of our elections and ensure that every vote is counted. But the voter restriction amendment is misleading and Minnesotans deserve to know all of the consequences before we overhaul our voting system. The cost to tax payers is too high; the risk to our democracy is too great.

Reject this amendment, and ensure your vote is counted in future elections.

Helping as we head to holidays

With approximately 20,000 pounds of food distributed per month through the food programs it supports, CHUM finds itself needing to re-stock shelves, frequently via food drives, about every two months. Local food shelves found the items collected from the National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive in May lasted only into August this year. Since basic foods are often not available through government commodity programs, and the cost for purchasing these items has risen greatly. In the first half of 2012, the food shelf spent 82% more than in 2011 for needed food.

Laborers Local 1091 is now collecting food to assist the hungry. Last week, they dropped off 160 pounds, with a goal of 500 pounds before the holidays. Items the CHUM food shelves are desperate for are: peanut butter, tuna, canned fruit, peas, corn, chicken soup, and macaroni and cheese. If you are heading near the Duluth Labor Temple, you’ll find the collection table located outside the Laborers’ Room 117 office at the end of the hallway.

As part of the United Way and AFL-CIO Central Labor Body partnership, the Community Services member assistance program is again this year working with local unions to identify families who are eligible for participation in the Holiday Food Basket and “Santa Sack” programs. As this has been a challenging year with plant closures, strikes and layoffs, a little help to make the holidays a less stressful time financially is why our member assistance program is reaching out. The deadline for requests through your union for the Thanksgiving dinner basket is Thursday, November 1, and Friday, November 30 for the Christmas basket.

The “Santa Sack” family gift program and event will be held again this year on Saturday, December 15 at the Labor Temple from 12 noon – 3 pm. The Committee looks at this afternoon as an opportunity to show children how union brothers and sisters work together to help one another by giving our time, talents, and financial support, and to make what may be a trying holiday a happier one for needy families.

The Community Services Committee is looking for locals and/or individuals who would be willing to adopt the children of one of our union families by fulfilling a child’s wish list. If you are interested in providing a wish list for a child, please contact Lynette Swanberg at 218-726-4775, commservices@unitedwayduluth.org by Saturday, December 1.

We know union members and locals are already generous givers to this community. In times of need, we pull together and show our strength and caring. Thank you!

Re-Elect Steve O’Neil

St. Louis County Board, District 2

Proud to be Labor Endorsed

I will continue to work hard on behalf of all working families. That’s who I am. I need your vote Nov. 6th!

Paid for by Duluth Central Labor Body COPE
LeAnn Littlewolf recites her poem Oct. 25 at the Wellstone Memorial. It is inscribed on a rock at the entry plaza.

Wellstone legacy connects us

Following is the poem LeAnn Littlewolf wrote for the 2005 dedication of the Wellstone Memorial and Historic Site. When the Wellstones’ chartered airplane went down on October 25, 2002, five eagles circled above the crash site. Littlewolf read her poem at the 10th anniversary of the tragedy Oct. 25 at the Memorial. That night in the Duluth Labor Temple’s Wellstone Hall’s memorial, she asked Jayme McKenna to read it for her. She had never met McKenna, but she said Wellstone’s work is Hall’s memorial, she asked Jayme McKenna to read it for her.

The eagles circle
In a ceremony
To guide their kind friends home.
Though our time here is brief,
An ancient truth circles with the eagles:
That spirits never die.
They stay alive
In love, in hope,
In eagles’ wings touching the sky.
In people extending hands to one another
To circle like an eagle
And bring everyone home.

–LeAnn Littlewolf, Ojibwe

Wellstone still energizing elections...from page 1

The memorial had a distinct Native American feel to it with pleasant, burning sage, songs, drums, and poetry. Speaker after speaker took the podium without talking electoral politics until retired Sheet Metal Worker Local 10 member George Sundstrom spoke. He was a close friend of Wellstone, who cleared his schedule to attend Sundstrom’s retirement party, and often drove him to events. He said Wellstone would jump out of the car at red lights if a couple of people were standing on the corner to greet and talk to them.

Sundstrom ended by saying unless you have a dressage horse in your barn or an elevator in your garage, you’d better vote for Rick Nolan. He was greeted with cheers and applause that would have fired up Wellstone.

Sutter reads for Wellstone

Duluth’s first Poet Laureate Barton Sutter attended the memorial observance of the 10th anniversary of the Wellstone airplane crash in the Duluth Labor Temple on the night of Oct. 25. He selected two poems to read. One was “A Circle of Pitchforks” by Bill Holm about the powerline protests in southern Minnesota in the 1970s that Wellstone was involved in and wrote a book, “Powerline,” about in 1981. The second poem Sutter read was by Thomas R. Smith, “Yard Signs,” that he wrote after Wellstone’s death in 2002.

YARD SIGNS
For Paul and Sheila Wellstone

The yard signs with their black ribbons look bereaved, each a green requiem for a future that has ended before its time. They make this whole city a spontaneous shrine to the dream that rode with your small plane downed the week before the elections.

I felt safer knowing you were alive.
“Well” — it was refreshing. And “stone” — solid.
Your name evoked replenishment and strength, exclamatory with excitement your compact fighter’s body fired into action and speech, Wellstone! one of our code words for hope.

You walked the road with us, and for us.
The black-ribboned signs say your passion lives on past the shadows of October.
They are not hope’s graves but its reminders. Some darkness wrestled you to earth near Eveleth, but your vision will rise again from these yards.

–Thomas R. Smith

Operating Engineers 49 Retirees vote Nolan

Much has been said about Operating Engineers Local 49 endorsing Republican Chip Cravaack’s re-election bid to the U.S. House of Representatives from Minnesota’s 8th Congressional District. Most of it hasn’t been good within labor’s ranks as his opponent, Rick Nolan, has the AFL-CIO endorsement.

Very few IUOE 49 members attended the meeting at which Cravaack was endorsed. In fact it was about the same number as attended a monthly Duluth meeting luncheon for IUOE 49 Retirees here Oct. 10. Dale Kilby said he’s heard a lot about his union’s Cravaack endorsement since it happened in early July.

“I brought it up at our retiree’s meeting because we’re taking a lot of heat for endorsing Cravaack,” Kilby said. “I made a motion for a straw vote and it could have died for a lack of a second or my motion could have been voted down.”

The members in attendance voted to have a straw poll and then 13 voted for Nolan, 2 for Cravaack, and 3 votes were considered to be “unclear” as to who they were for.

“I’m proud of my group,” said Kilby, who isn’t an officer. “They wanted to do it.”

Like Kilby, who describes his work life as an Operating Engineer as a “dirt worker,” many heavy equipment operators know who brought the jobs home that supported their families. “I got four years of work on the freeway and tunnels alone,” he said.

Former Congressman Jim Oberstar and his Democratic Party were the leaders for decades for transportation, infrastructure and building projects in the region. Oberstar was the Congressional leader on transportation and infrastructure and chaired that House committee in fact.

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“You have to look hard to find anything to point to in Cravaack’s two years in office. Well, there was a road in Grand Marais he backed. It really makes IUOE Retirees feel bad to see their union’s training center in Cravaack’s TV ads and on his billboards. They know their history too well to fall for that advertising.

“Rick Nolan is a very impressive candidate and will be a great Congressman for all working families,” said Kilby. “I’m looking forward to voting for him and I think a lot of other ‘49ers are too. Some of us know the Democrats are the real builders.”

America’s Second Lady, Dr. Jill Biden, came to a packed Wellstone Hall Saturday morning Oct. 20 to stump for Rick Nolan, left, and, his effort to win back the 8th Congressional District for Democrats. Biden is a full time teacher at a community college after teaching in public schools for 13 years. She said even if her husband was not on the ballot as Obama’s VP she would be working in this election to make sure America continues to invest in quality education, and it’s Democrats like Nolan who will make that happen. The Bidens have a son in the Delaware Army National Guard who spent a year in Iraq. Jill Biden said they worried every day about him and are so proud. Obama kept his promise by ending that war and bringing Osama bin Laden to justice.

Falsani, Balmer Best Lawyers

Jim Balmer and Bob Falsani were recently selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America, 19th Edition. Their selection is based upon an exhaustive and rigorous peer-review survey comprising nearly 4 million confidential evaluations by the nation’s top lawyers. It has been called by American Lawyer, “the most respected referral list of attorneys in practice.”

Balmer is honored for his work in Personal Injury Litigation (defendant and plaintiff). He been included every year since 2005. Certified as a Civil Trial Specialist by National Board of Trial Advocacy (NBTA), Balmer currently serves as the NBTA’s Minnesota Coordinator. He is also a Minnesota Super Lawyer and member of the American Board of Trial Advocacy. In 2010 Balmer was named Volunteer Attorney of the Year in the 6th Judicial District by the Volunteer Attorney Program.

Falsani received recognition in the practice area of Worker’s Compensation Law. A Minnesota Super Lawyer, he also is certified as a Civil Trial Specialist by the NBTA and the Minnesota Bar Association and a member of the American Board of Trial Advocacy. In 2009 he was awarded the Minnesota Association for Justice’s highest honor, the Lifetime Achievement Award.

In 1975, the two attorneys founded the law firm of Falsani, Balmer Peterson, Quinn & Beyer, which today has an extensive practice in personal injury, worker’s compensation and social security disability in both Minnesota and Wisconsin.

On Third Party Comp Claims:

“Victims of work injuries frequently ask if they are limited under worker’s comp law solely to medical costs and wage law reimbursement. Not necessarily. If someone other than their employer is responsible for the harm that they suffered, then they can proceed against that third party to receive additional compensation for their loss.”

Jim Balmer
ATTORNEY AT LAW

Falsani, Balmer, Peterson, Quinn & Beyer
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723-1990 • 1-800-723-2048
falsanibalmer.com
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