AFL-CIO’s Stewart Acuff returns to northeast Minnesota to celebrate Labor Day

Stewart Acuff was so good at delivering the labor movement’s version of “that old time religion” when he was in Duluth for the 2005 Labor Day Picnic that he’s been invited back. Duluth AFL-CIO Central Labor Body President Alan Netland was at a conference in Milwaukee in January and the invitation was made and accepted.

“Stewart is a great human being,” said Netland. “He is committed and visionary and a no bullshit kind of guy. He is an inspiring speaker in the Paul Wellstone style of speaking. Stewart is the architect of the development of the whole Employee Free Choice Act which he started on years ago. It is a pleasure to have him back in Duluth and north east Minnesota.”

Netland said Acuff was a crowd pleaser with his passionate speech here on Labor Day in 2005. At that time Hurricane Katrina had just devastated New Orleans and the shores of the Gulf of Mexico, and the Bush Administration was trying to put Social Security in the hands of Wall Street. Acuff addressed all those issues.

“If ever there was a need for a strong, vibrant labor movement it is today my brothers and sisters, they’ve taken away our right to organize, hijacked our health care and are trying to do it to Social Security and pensions, they’ve stolen our manufacturing jobs...it’s time to fight for what America stands for,” Acuff said to cheers back then.

As our Hispanic sisters and brothers say, “La Lucha Continua” which translates “The Struggle Continues.”

As he did in 2005, Acuff, Assistant to the President for the National AFL-CIO, will come early and stay late as he mixes it up with the people of northern Minnesota to find out what’s cookin’ here. Unlike most labor leaders, Acuff will arrive on Saturday and leave on Tuesday, fitting in as much as he can.

“He said he would come on Saturday and leave on Tuesday after Labor Day,” said Duluth AFL-CIO Central Labor Body President Alan Netland. “We’ll be getting him to Carlson County, the Iron Range, and Bayfront Park.”

Acuff has been a community and union organizer in a number of states, working for ACORN and Citizen Action. A former truck driver, Acuff was named Organizing Director of the AFL-CIO in 2002 by President John Sweeney. He also knows trade unionism on the local level having led the Atlanta Central Labor Council as their president for nine years beginning in 1991.

In 2000, he joined the AFL-CIO staff as deputy director of field mobilization for the Midwest region. He served as deputy director of organizing from 2001 until becoming director.

See Acuff...page 22

Solidarity singers shatter Chris Wisocki’s anti-union happy hour at the Pickwick

CJ Cannon & Sandy Reinholt awarded unemployment

Workers United Local 99 called off their eight week boycott of the Pickwick for an hour Saturday night to allow their supporters to go inside to take advantage of owner Chris Wisocki’s idea of an anti-union happy hour.

Wisocki has been distributing fliers advertising the union’s picket line in front of the Pickwick.

“He is offering a dollar off a tap beer or glass of house wine if you bring in his flyer and any propaganda, as he puts it, that we handing out,” said WU99 President Todd Erickson.

Erickson, CJ Cannon, and Sandy Reinholt, greeted Pickwick customers Saturday night, including about three dozen of their supporters who arrived at 7:00 p.m. Everyone entering the Pickwick was given a union flyer, a photocopy of page one of the July 22 Labor World, and Wisocki’s flyer to take in with them. Tables inside the Pickwick have been sporting umbrella advertisements of the anti-union happy hour but they were taken down Saturday night. Wisocki didn’t honor his anti-union happy hour.

At 7:45 the union supporters that had entered the bar for a libation all got up and left at the same time. They went outside for a few minutes, then went back inside and sang “Solidarity Forever” led by singer Rachel Kilgour. Returning outside after the song, they sang Woody Guthrie’s “Union Maid” with the famous “Oh, you can’t scare me, I’m sticking to the union” lines.

“His flyer itself is demeaning as it has a group of woman at the Pickwick heading the boycott,” said WU99 Vice President Rachel Kilgour.

See Boycott...page X

Fighting the Radical Right

By Stewart Acuff, AFL-CIO Assistant to the President

Some of us progressives mistakenly thought that when Barack Obama and his campaign and mandate for change won overwhelmingly last November and we picked up seats in the House and when Al Franken became the 60th Democrat in the Senate that the new government would enact the change that was the substance of the election.

America’s whacked out radical rightwing, however, has not given up on their agenda to create greater and greater income and wealth inequality, to make the country’s public policy a captive of the bizarre free market ideas of novelist Ayn Rand, and to continue to have our health care determined exclusively by insurance corporations for their own profit while 50 million of us lack healthcare and its cost continues to drag down our working families.

See Fighting...page 22
Health insurance teach-in at UMD Sept. 16 to address system’s failings

Far too many Members of Congress have been scared off from holding town hall meetings on health care reform because of obstructionist hecklers. That doesn’t mean everyone is. The Duluth AFL-CIO Central Labor Body has signed on as one of the organizations that will help sponsor a “Teach-In on Health Insurance Reform” at UMD’s Labovitz School of Business and Economics (LSBE) Room 118 (behind UMD’s Library). The event is Wednesday Sept. 16, 4:30-7:00 p.m.

Panelists include Charles Gessert (MD, MPH), Buddy Robinson (Citizens Federation), Patrick Schoenfelder (MD), and Professor Jennifer Schultz (UMD Professor).

Dr. Richard Hudelson, a philosophy professor at the University of Wisconsin-Superior, has been organizing the teach-in.

“The private health insurance industry in the U.S. has failed America’s working families,” says Hudelson. “Over the last ten years, health insurance premiums have gone up 119 percent. During the same time wages have risen only 34 percent, only slightly more than inflation. Employers are shifting the cost onto working families.”

Hudelson says for over 47 million Americans, there is no health insurance. “High cost, high deductibles, high copays, exclusions for pre-existing conditions, and denials of coverage make health insurance beyond the reach of those who need it most.”

Even many who have health insurance are unable to afford to use it and have no security with it. About 50% of all bankruptcies are caused by illness or injury and 75% of those who go bankrupt had health insurance at the onset of illness.

“We can do better than this and for the first time in sixty years we have a chance to make significant change,” Hudelson says.

But a loud and unscrupulous opposition has launched a campaign to block real change. It is particularly opposed to a “public option” which would offer working families an alternative to the private insurance companies that have failed them.

Chad McKenna, Field Organizer for the North East Area Labor Council, has been working on labor’s efforts at health care reform.

“SurveyUSA’s August 18 poll shows 77 percent of the public saying that a public option is crucial to health care reform. A majority of Americans are in favor of health care reform because they realize we don’t have a quality health care system for what we pay when we compare ours to the rest of the world. We like to say competition is important to capitalism and prices we pay, but we don’t have real competition in health care.”

McKenna says many polls are finding Americans dissatisfied with their health care coverage, if they have it, and wanting reform of some nature. That spurred opponents to try to shout out discussions.

Come to the teach-in at UMD on September 16. Join the Duluth Central Labor Body and a coalition of religious and social justice agencies sponsoring the teach-in to show your support for real change in the health insurance system.

AFL-CIO Joe Wiesinger 2009 Community Services Employer Award Winner:

Falsani, Balmer, Peterson, Quinn & Beyer Law Firm

(Left-to-right) Firm partners, Sean Quinn and Jim Peterson, receive award from Al Netland

According to the AFL-CIO Central Labor Body’s Community Services Program, here’s why:

“Falsani, Balmer, Peterson, Quinn & Beyer has a long history of supporting the United Way of Greater Duluth, DADs Golf Tournament, the Duluth AFL-CIO Annual Labor Day Picnic (they not only pay for the sweet corn, the lawyers attend the picnic and serve the corn to the picnic goers); they sponsor a free Worker’s Compensation Seminar every year, as well as, many other labor-related projects.

Individuals at the firm also donate their time and talents to our community, helping in many ways:

• The Homeless Connect Program
• The Women’s Expo
• Youth Coaching
• Safe Haven Women’s Shelter
• Lawyers-On-Line
• Pro Bono Work

And Much, Much More

There is not enough room on this page to put into words the true extent that FBPQ&B and its employees give back to their community. Therefore, let it be said that the FBPQ&B Law Firm truly embodies the Spirit of Community and knows the true meaning of Community Service.”

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL RALLY

The Douglas County Democratic Party will sponsor a rally for Health Care For All Saturday, Sept. 19 at 10:00 a.m. Meet at Center City Park, Belknap & Tower, in Superior. We will walk from there to the Government Center. Guest speakers, t-shirts, signs, & talking points on health care will be there. paid for by Douglas Co. Democratic Party
Lots of options in this region for celebrating your Labor Day holiday!

North East Area Labor Council President Alan Netland won't have a problem keeping National AFL-CIO President John J. Sweeney's Assistant, Stewart Acuff, busy when he gets here Saturday.

For Netland and Acuff, and trade unionists throughout the region, there are lots of options for celebrating the one U.S. holiday that pays tribute to the American worker. The options are spaced out so nicely that you can actually make them all if you're so inclined. Netland said he and Acuff will do that.

Saturday, September 5

The celebrations begin Saturday when the Carlton County DFL, a blue collar bunch if there ever was one, holds their 5th Annual FunRaiser (see ad below) at the home of Larry "the Laborer" and Lisa "the Purchaser" Anderson. People who have made it to this event in the past always have it marked on their calendars so they won't miss it. This year Minnesota's Secretary of State Mark Ritchie and Auditor Rebecca Otto will be the featured speakers. The beauty is you can walk right up and ask Ritchie about the Franken/Coleman recount, or Otto about her wind turbine farm, and get answers.

Live music by the great "Milkbone" band is as good as the food and drink. Stay late!

Virginia is the place to be the day before Labor Day for the Iron Range Labor Assembly's annual picnic in Owls Park (see their ad on page 2). Food put out only the way Rangers can do it, and political speeches that will tell you who the sons-of-bitches are will be served up to give you nothing but a good time.

If you need to be in Cloquet by 11:00 a.m. for the longest continuous Labor Day parade in Minnesota and perhaps all of America.

The 90th celebration of Labor Day by the Carlton County Central Labor Body will be scaled back from its usual five days to just Labor Day this year. The recent passing of Bob Oswold, long time president of the CCCLB and the glue to the whole Labor Day extravaganza has put a damper on the event this year.

Their ad on this page will show you that there still is plenty to do in Cloquet on Labor Day.

Come one, come all!
Meet Sec. of State Ritchie, Auditor Otto, area legislators, gubernatorial candidates!

5th Annual Carlton County DFL FunRaiser
Live Milkbone music, picnic food, beverages Saturday, Sept. 5 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Rain or Shine @ Larry the Laborer's 97 E. Palkie Rd, Esko Info: 428-2722, 878-0953 $20 suggested donations accepted

Duluth

This year will be the 119th observance of Labor Day in Duluth as far as anyone can tell. It was first celebrated in the U.S. in the 1880s.

The Duluth AFL-CIO Central Labor Body will hold their Labor Day Picnic at Duluth Bayfront Park from Noon to 4:00 p.m. with a full range of activities for the whole family. There's free beer for dad, free food so mom doesn't have to cook, and kids games so junior can jump up and down and make it look like he soiled dad's shirt.

Congressman Jim Oberstar and Acuff will be among many people to take the stage to address the crowd in the great Labor Day tradition.

Musicians Local 18 members will join up as the Windjammers to provide wonderful live music again. This year the Mark Rubin Family Band will also play for your pleasure.

This Labor Day will be the last time that Yvonne Harvey will serve as Picnic Chair so give her your "thanks" when you see her there. It's a tough, thankless job trying to get volunteers for all the tasks, soliciting donations so it can be free, and then actually call it off. Help out if you can that day.

A party in Harvey's honor will be held Thursday, Sept. 10 beginning at 5:00 p.m. in the back room of the Reef Bar.

Superior

The Superior Federation of Labor will resurrect their dance in the evening on Labor Day this year (see their ads on page 4). Aces on 29th (take Tower Avenue south to 28th Street, take a right, go down a couple of blocks, take a left, and you can’t miss it) will be the scene of the dance that will have live music by Sounds Unlimited. Head over to Superior that evening and help them keep their tradition alive. Hey, you’ll keep yourself alive by going dancing. Bring a non-perishable food item that will be donated to the food shelves.

Well there you have it. If you do the Labor Day holiday right, you’ll have to go to work to rest on Tuesday, Sept. 8. Give it hell on Wednesday.


See You In Cloquet!
For information contact Mike Kuitu (218) 722-6730 or 391-6367

WE’VE GOT THE VANS FOR HAULIN’ CARGO!
Head up to Kolar’s Hyundai store to see the shipment of 3/4 Ton Chevrolet Cargo Vans we recently purchased.
Prices start as low as $6,990, but you’d better hurry!
4 from $6,990!!!

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Come on, come all!
We must seize this time to make great advances for working families

By David Newby, President
Wisconsin State AFL-CIO

Last year we organized the largest, most intense—and most effective—political mobilization that any of us have ever seen. Labor went all out to communicate to our members and their families about the issues and what was at stake.

And we won!

But we didn’t do all that work just for the fun of it: we did it so that we could improve the lives of working families. So now we must seize the time and turn America around so that the economy and our political system work for US—not just Wall Street and the corporate elite.

The reality is that we have the best chance in sixty years to make real advances for working people: to guarantee that every American gets quality, affordable health care at a cost they can afford; to change our labor laws so that workers can organize a union if they want one—without harassment, intimidation, or fear of being fired; to re-shape our economy so that it improves our standard of living, our quality of life, and so that it provides security to all in the basics of life.

Those are the opportunities we have today—if we seize the time, if we act to insist that the politicians we elected to office come through on the promises they made.

But as I write this, we face an additional challenge: right-wing, corporate sponsored—and financed efforts to sabotage our attempt to improve the lives of Americans. Responsible Members of Congress who are taking their August recess period to hold town hall meetings in order to be accessible to their constituents, to listen to their concerns, to respond, and to let us know what is happening in Washington—these representatives we elected are being shut up and shouted down by people duped into believing the most outrageous lies imaginable.

Take the Democratic health care proposal (which isn’t even finished yet): the town hall disrupters are echoing the most ridiculous charges of the Fox right-wing “commentators”, anonymous email chain letters, and the likes of Glenn Beck and Rush Limbaugh. These disrupters are shouting lies that the Democrats (and President Obama) are promoting euthanasia for our senior citizens, requiring forced abortions, giving bureaucrats in Washington the power to make medical decisions for us, and insisting that health care reform is “socialized medicine”. All lies. But these lies repeated over and over make other folks wonder if they might be true.

In almost every one of these town hall meetings, someone will yell against a “government take-over” of the health care system—and add too that “you better keep your hands off my Medicare!” Medicare, of course, the largest, most successful, and most popular government health care system we have.

Against this ignorance and deliberate sabotage by corporate special interests, we need to stand up and speak up. We must demand that the lying end and that our politicians act in our interests. If they don’t act now, both what remains of our health care system and our economy will collapse under the weight of unsustainable lies.

Now is the time we must organize and speak up: clearly and loudly and with conviction. We won’t have another opportunity for many, many years.

Seize the time.

Correction

In the last View from the Ditch it was omitted that Painters & Allied Trades Local 106’s Len Pekkala of Len Pekkala Painting led the painting crews at the Extreme Makeover construction project. Dana Marciniak caught the error (again).
Made it to Labor Night at the Movies last Thursday in Wellstone Hall and it was well worth it. Even got fed with that great Super One broasted chicken by M&K Food & Commercial Workers Local 1116, who popped for it. NEALC's Chad McKenna started movie night to have an opportunity for young people to socialize and learn some labor history. There were about 20 of us there for night #2. The first night had over 30 for “Labor’s Turning Point: The Minneapolis Truck Strike of 1934.” Movie night #2 was the 1977 Academy Award winning documentary “Harlan County USA” by Barbara Kopple. It’s about the struggle of 180 Kentucky coal miners who had voted to join the United Mine Workers in 1973. It won the Academy Award as a labor documentary, that’s all you need to know. I need to see it. 1973 wasn’t very long ago but it seemed like we were watching something from the 1930s, a time many of the miners aluded to. It was gut wrenching at times to watch.

~NOTICE~

Next issues of Labor World: Sept. 23; Oct. 7, 28; Nov. 11, 24; Dec. 16.

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Survey on young workers shows a “lost decade”

Young workers are significantly less likely to have health care or economic security than they were 10 years ago, and one-third live in their parents’ home, according to a new national survey, Young Workers: A Lost Decade, released by the AFL-CIO at its Labor Day briefing Tuesday. Leaders of the 11.5 million-member nation federation said they will make an unprecedented effort to reach out to young workers.

“Today, amidst economic distress and upheaval, union families are working to finish the job — we’re leading a massive mobilization for health care reform and passage of the Employee Free Choice Act to create an economy that works for everyone,” said AFL-CIO President John Sweeney. “And today, amidst economic distress and upheaval, union families are working to finish the job — we’re leading a massive mobilization for health care reform and passage of the Employee Free Choice Act to create an economy that works for everyone.”

How’d he do? It’s 14 years later. Sweeney’s stepping down when pushed to the wall. It’s time I’m in jail, Tom, come visit,” you be the judge.

1995 John Sweeney won the first contested election for president of the National AFL-CIO against the chosen one, Joe Stringer. It was all for “building bridges,” which sell you down the road.

Sweeney said then, “I believe in building bridges. When the shelling stops, let’s put up steel and pour concrete, but I also believe in blocking bridges when communities and corporations don’t listen. Next time I’m in jail, Tom, come visit.” You be the judge.

How’d he do? It’s 14 years later. Sweeney’s stepping down finally, and his Sec.-Treas. Richard Trumka, a United Mine Worker, is sounding like a general public about what happened up there. Not much ever really got resolved in favor of union members by the events surrounding BE&K, Boise, and Vance Security, though BE&K and Vance haven’t been back since. It was just a case of people doing what they had to do and pushed to the wall.

The violence made me think of 9/9/89 in International Falls.

Next Wednesday will be the 20th Anniversary of the confrontation of rank-and-file Building Trades members and the non-union, anti-union, Alabama contractor, BE&K, who was awarded the $500 million expansion by Boise Cascade. It got violent. The camp housing the scab trailers went up in flames after protesters, and an agent provocateur or two, had been provoked by Vance Security guards. Funny, but the scabs provoked by Vance Security guards. Funny, but the scabs never found where those wildcatters in Falls from labor as well as the general public about what happened up there. Not much ever really got resolved in favor of union members by the events surrounding BE&K, Boise, and Vance Security, though BE&K and Vance haven’t been back since. It was just a case of people doing what they had to do and pushed to the wall.

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Young workers are facing the worst kind of insecurity — struggling to find good jobs and hold down debt while trying to grow into adulthood,” said AFL-CIO Sec.-Treas. Richard Trumka. “We owe them better. Unless we change it, their economic standards are going to define a new norm — a norm of lower job and living standards. Their future is our country’s future.”

Survey on young workers shows a “lost decade”

By Mark Gruenberg
PAI Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Postal Service is in peril, but legislation to help solve its projected $7 billion deficit in the year ending Sept. 30, and a similar deficit in the following 12 months, has hit a major rock in the road caused by a Radical Right GOP senator and inattentive Democrats. As a result, the nation’s two biggest postal unions to say they may have to reverse course and oppose the measure.

And if something isn’t done about USPS red ink by the end of September, the agency may not have enough money to pay its bills. Management’s solution: Let go 53,000 workers, close hundreds of post offices and end Saturday pickup and delivery.

The immediate issue facing postal unions is an amendment by Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Okl., to legislation, S1507, to relieve USPS of a $5.4 billion payment it must make, within a month, to cover future retirees’ future health care costs.

Cochran’s amendment would radically change arbitration and bargaining between USPS and its unions, including the Letter Carriers and the Postal Workers, by ordering the arbitrator to put the financial condition of the Postal Service first in any decision. If that condition alone is tacked onto arbitrations when USPS and the unions can’t reach contracts, the unions would have to yank their support of the health care cost bill, veteran APWU President Bill Burrus and new Letter Carriers President Fredric Rolando said.

“The Coburn amendment serves only to upset collective bargaining procedures,” Burrus said. Several of the majority Democrats on the panel admitted they did not realize the implications of anti-worker Republican’s measure. “Could you support S1507 if the amendment stays in?” one senator asked. “No,” Rolando replied.

But the wider issue is how to restructure the Postal Service to adapt to a radically changed communications environment -- one where its long-time bread-and-butter of first-class mail, catalogues and bills are increasingly taken over by the Internet.

Some of the discussion at the session is part of a 10-year plan where USPS must cover at least 75 years of future retirees’ future costs now. Those costs are calculated to be at least $60 billion.

USPS has more problems than health care payments. Due to the recession, mail volume has slumped by 12% in the last year and the quarterly drop is expected to reach 16% by the end of fiscal 2009 in September, GAO’s report said.

Postmaster General John Potter said USPS has lost much of its volume to the Internet. Potter, named by a GOP-appointed postal board, has a solution: Cut, cut, cut. Potter wants to eliminate Saturday pickup and delivery, close at least 677 postal stations -- especially in the nation’s cities -- and let another 53,000 workers go. The USPS workforce has shrunk, through retirements and buyouts, to 603,000 workers, from 773,000 several years ago.

Both Rolando, who recently succeeded longtime NALC President William Young, and Burrus said they are working with USPS management on efficiencies which could save the agency money. NALC and the agency are reviewing 168,000 city letter carrier routes, looking for consolidations. APWU, said Burrus, is working with postal officials on a plan the union leader estimated would save $1 billion.

On July 24, Rolando and Burrus and other postal union leaders met with Obama’s administration aides at the White House to discuss the agency’s financial crunch. They also covered the Senate bill and its House companion, HR 22, which does not have Coburn’s amendment.

“NALC is grateful for the efforts on both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue to find solutions to this crisis,” Rolando said. “We welcome this relief. But any short-term legislation is just the first step. We also need to enact comprehensive reforms to allow the Postal Service to pre-fund its future retiree health benefits on a more reasonable and affordable schedule.”

Senators were generally sympathetic to approving the $5.4 billion health care fix, but were non-committal about Coburn’s amendment. Sen. Joseph Lieberman, Ind.-Conn., asked Rolando and Burrus to submit conditions -- for both sides -- that should be attached to any arbitrations. They declined, not wanting to tie people’s hands.

**Legislation to help U.S. Postal Service stalled on a right-wing rock**

**Have a Safe and Happy Labor Day from your friends at**

**Greater Northland Area Local American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO Duluth, MN**

**Proud to be a part of Duluth’s Labor Day Heritage Since 1887!**

**Plumbers & Steamfitters LOCAL 11**

4402 Airpark Boulevard 727-2199

**Labor Day Greetings!**

Thank you laborers for your hard work all year -- enjoy YOUR day of recognition!

I value my friends in labor and will continue fighting for working families at the Capitol.

**Roger Reinert**
Representative • MN House-7B

**I’m Fighting for Duluth!**

Paid for by Roger for Duluth Volunteer Committee, Will Munger, Treasurer
Job deaths drop 10% from 2007 to 2008

(PAI)—Deaths on the job dropped by 10% in 2008, compared to 2007, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. In raw numbers, 5,071 workers died on the job last year, compared to 5,567 the year before, the agency’s preliminary data show. Final 2008 numbers will be released in April 2010.

The big declines in job fatalities came in transportation accidents and in construction, and BLS attributed the cause to the economic crash. Its impact cut activity in construction and related work – such as hauling materials to and from job sites.

“Economic factors likely played a role in the fatality decrease. Average hours worked at the national level fell by 1% in 2008, and some industries that historically accounted for a significant share of worker fatalities, such as construction, experienced larger declines in employment or hours worked,” the agency’s statisticians said.

The fatality rate on the job also dropped 10%, to 3.6 deaths per 100,000 workers.

Labor Secretary Hilda Solis welcomed the decline, whatever its cause, but still said one death on the job is one too many. The Obama administration in which she serves seeks large increases in funding and hiring more inspectors for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the job safety agency.

“With every one of these fatalities, the lives of a worker’s family members were shattered and forever changed. We can’t forget that fact,” Solis declared. The drop in deaths on the job “does not lessen the need for strong enforcement to ensure safety is a top priority in every workplace. In fact, today’s report prompts us to step up our vigilance, particularly as the economy regains momentum,” she warned businesses. “The Department of Labor will not be satisfied until there are no workplace deaths due to failure to comply with safety rules,” she vowed.

The data show the number of deaths in job-related transportation accidents dropped from 2,351 in 2007 to 2,053 last year. Deaths in the construction industry declined 20%, from 1,204 in 2007 to 969 last year. An even bigger decline, 28%, was in residential construction, which collapsed due to recession.

In most occupations, traffic accidents were the leading cause of deaths on the job. Exceptions included construction, where one-third of deaths were due to falls, with another 12% coming when a falling object hit workers. The number of workers who fell to their deaths – not all in construction

Murder was the top cause of deaths, the lives of a worker’s family members were shattered and forever changed. We can’t forget that fact,” Solis declared. The drop in deaths on the job “does not lessen the need for strong enforcement to ensure safety is a top priority in every workplace. In fact, today’s report prompts us to step up our vigilance, particularly as the economy regains momentum,” she warned businesses. “The Department of Labor will not be satisfied until there are no workplace deaths due to failure to comply with safety rules,” she vowed.

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Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 1
Minnesota/North Dakota
2002 London Road • 724-8374

We Salute Our Members, America’s Workers!
Have a Safe & Happy Labor Day!

HFCU Credit Union
East Duluth Branch
Our credit union covers all of St. Louis County and all of your family!
Visit www.hermantownfcu.org

Enjoy Labor Day
It’s brought to you by unionists who had to fight to get it for you!

Thanks to Labor Unions, I’ll enjoy mine too!
Senator Yvonne Prettner Solon
Minnesota Senate District 7 DFL & Labor Endorsed

Paid for by the Prettner Solon Volunteer Committee, Elaine Hansen, Treasurer
On Labor Day as we honor working women and men for the gains America has made, let us remember that a quality workforce, well educated and well trained, is what is needed to keep America moving forward toward a prosperous future for all.

Refuting the lies pushed by health care reform opponents
by Mike Hall, AFL-CIO Blog, Aug 22, 2009

Anyone who has read a newspaper, seen a television report or attended a health care reform event has to be amazed at some of the outrageous, bizarre and just off-the-charts lies being spouted about health care reform. According to the ranters and ragers, it will make private insurance illegal, socialize medicine, convene death panels to kill grandma and give undocumented aliens Mayo Clinic quality care.

The folks at Media Matters have identified 14 of the most cited reform myths and lies that opponents are spreading, including the crazed fringe and even mainstream Republicans, media outlets and health care industry groups.

All the myths are at http://mediamatters.org/research/200908200002 but here are a few

**MYTH 1:** There is no health care crisis. **REALITY:** 45 million have no health insurance and 27 million are underinsured and insurance companies routinely restrict and deny coverage.

**MYTH 2:** Health care reform will impose rationing. **REALITY:** Insurance companies already ration care. Insurance companies acknowledge that they ration care, restricting coverage of procedures and tests like MRIs and CAT scans and denying coverage for pre-existing medical conditions.

**MYTH 3:** Reform provides for euthanasia, "death panel" **REALITY:** The proposed health care reform plan allows for voluntary advance care planning, including living wills, health

See Health care myths...page 9

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**ON DIGNITY**

Labor Day's significance lies in one word. Dignity. Without question, it is the single most important accomplishment trade unionism has brought forth onto our American culture. Dignity is realized in better wages, and in livable, safe working conditions... in an attitude that is better suited to cope with retirement or ill health. Regardless of one's station in life—worker, manager or boss, union or non-union—each individual and family lives a better life because of American trade unions. By organizing and uniting, we've set standards, wages and conditions that we are continually improving. By insuring the survivability of collective bargaining, we've spread America's wealth to a broader populace which, in turn, has provided more purchasing power, allowing industry opportunities to also thrive and prosper.

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**Duluth Building & Construction Trades Council**

Affiliates

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<tr>
<th>Local</th>
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<tr>
<td>Boilermakers Lodge 647</td>
<td>724-6999</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bricklayers &amp; Allied Crafts Local 1</td>
<td>724-8374</td>
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<td>Cement Masons, Plasterers &amp; Shophands Local 633</td>
<td>724-2323</td>
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<td>Electrical Workers Local 242</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elevator Constructors Local 9 (612) 379-2709</td>
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<td>Insulators Local 49</td>
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<td>724-6873</td>
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<td>Sprinkler Fitters Local 669 (507) 493-5671</td>
<td>628-1034</td>
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<td>Teamsters Local 346</td>
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Craig Olson, President, 1-218-724-6466

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State Representative Mary Murphy, District 06B
Prepared and paid for by the Mary Murphy Volunteer Committee, Joan McDonald, Treasurer, 5180 West Arrowhead Road, Hermantown, MN 55811

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I’ll appreciate your vote Tuesday, September 15th!

Kerry Gauthier
4th District

AFL-CIO & DFL Endorsed

Primary Elections don’t grab a lot of voters’ attention but in races like mine they’re critical. I need your vote Sept. 15. Thanks!

Paid for by Duluth AFL-CIO Central Labor Body COPE

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**Refuting the lies pushed by health care reform opponents...**
Health care myths exposed...from page 8

care proxies, etc. NOT death panels.

MYTH 4: Health care reform legislation will cover undocumented immigrants. REALITY: The House bill stipulates that those "not lawfully present" may not receive subsidies to purchase insurance.

MYTH 5: Reform will raise your taxes REALITY: The House bill's surtax applies only to joint income exceeding $350,000/year.

MYTH 6: Reform taxes all small business REALITY: Ways and Means committee stated that according to JCT, only 4.1% of small-business owners would be affected by surtax.

MYTH 7: Reform adds $1 trillion to deficit REALITY: CBO found that House bill would increase the federal budget deficit by $239 billion over 10 years -- not $1 trillion.

MYTH 8: House bill bans private insurance REALITY: Nothing in either House or Senate bills outlaws, bans or prohibits private insurance.

MYTH 9: Obama didn’t read House bill. REALITY: Obama actually said he was “not familiar” with opponents' false talking point that bill would ban private insurance.

MYTH 10: Co-ops are an adequate substitute for a public option. REALITY: Progressive experts argue public plan is necessary for successful reform.

MYTH 11: Obama is pushing a system like the U.K., Canada. REALITY: Obama has rejected Canadian-style single-payer system and U.K.-style nationalized health care.

MYTH 12: Obama, Dems pushing "socialized medicine." REALITY: Conservatives have trotted out "socialized medicine" smear for 75 years -- and it’s never been true.

MYTH 13: Prominent opponents of health care reform are credible. REALITY: Opponents’ “expert” Betsy McCaughey is a serial misinformer, Rick Scott chaired a scandal-plagued hospital firm. Newt Gingrich has a financial stake in opposing Democrats.

MYTH 14: Government can’t run a health care program REALITY: Costs for Medicare, the “best care anywhere” program, have risen more slowly than private insurance.

With best wishes for a safe and relaxing Labor Day holiday! Please take time to vote.

Happy Labor Day!

Labor’s well-deserved holiday is a time to pay tribute to the quote: “Labor creates all wealth,” which is so true. May this Labor Day signal the beginning of a safer and more rewarding year for workers, who have been incredibly productive in helping to bring us back from an economic crisis.

Sen. Tony Lourey
Minnesota Senate • District 8
AFL-CIO & DFL Endorsed

Paid for by Tony Lourey for Senate,
Tony Bundschuh, Treasurer, Bruno, MN 55712

Have a Safe and Enjoyable Labor Day Weekend
And Please Buckle Up
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BlueCross BlueShield of Minnesota
An Independent Bearer of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

Rest from Your Labors with a Happy and Safe Labor Day!

UTU: Representing Railroad Workers!

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64, 650, 1614: UPRR-DME (CNW, CGW, M&StL, CMS&P&O)
911, 1976: CPRS (Milwaukee Road, Soo)
1067, 1292: CN (DW&P, DM&IR, Missabe Road)

United Transportation Union Minnesota Legislative Board
P.J. Qualy, UTU State Legislative Director, 411 Main Street, St. Paul MN 55102
This Residential Rebate Program is brought to you by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 242, in conjunction with their signatory contractors listed below.

IBEW Contractors are the most highly skilled companies working in the electrical industry because they employ the most highly skilled, trained workers. IBEW members are the best because they’ve gone through 5-year Apprenticeships, learn on the job from fellow union members who are Master Electricians licensed by the State of Minnesota, and because they attend trainings every year, including 16 hours of code classes, to keep up with changes in the electrical industry.

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News Guild wins 9-year email court case

In a big victory for TNG-CWA (The News Guild, a sector of the Communication Workers of America) members in Oregon, the U.S. Court of Appeals not only upheld their appeal over union use of company e-mail, it also slammed the infamous union-busting lawyer who told managers to pursue the case.

The Washington D.C. Court’s sharply worded July decision characterized lawyer Michael Zinser’s arguments as “simply more distortion than the words can bear.” Zinser is known for trying to break newspaper unions.

The case began at the Eugene Register-Guard in 2000, when managers disciplined the president of TNG-CWA Local 37194 for using the company’s e-mail system to send three e-mails about Guild business. The e-mails were sent after work hours. The Guild filed unfair labor practice charges, but the then Bush-dominated NLRB vote sided with the company over two of the mailings.

The company claimed that e-mail could only be used for business purposes, but the Guild was able to present abundant evidence that the company’s e-mail system was used by both employees and managers for a wide assortment of news—from baby shower invitations to requests for United Way volunteers.

The evidence proved the union was the only exception, and the U.S. Court of Appeals agreed. Its decision showed irritation not only with Zinser but with the NLRB, saying the board’s rationale smacked of “a post hoc invention.”

"The court's decision made it clear that the company had discriminated based on union activity," TNG-CWA President Bernie Lunzer said. "I was at the Court of Appeals when Michael Zinser presented his case, and a jury of kindergarteners could have seen through it. He tried to argue that the union was a special case and could be barred from communicating by company e-mail, even though everyone else was allowed to use it freely."

IBEW 242’s Ken Dwyer and Larry Sironen were among that union’s members who took their turn holding down a picket against non-union Simco Electric at the Texas Roadhouse restaurant being built across the road from Home Depot. The general contractor is Buffalo Construction of Louisville, KY, which builds Texas Roadhouses nationwide for that corporation. Buffalo awarded the bid to Simco.

Labor Day... In celebration of The American Worker the creator of so much of this nation’s strength, prosperity and leadership.

Local 3801 UMD Clerical & Technical

Happy Labor Day! Representing Media & Communications workers in Minnesota for 76 years.
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Laura Condon
An Experienced School Board Member
An Experienced Union Member
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We appreciate area workers, your commitment to this region and share your dedication to quality!
Labor Day gives us all a chance to reflect on the many benefits unions have brought to all working families in this great nation.

~Paul Schweiger, Personal Injury and Medical Malpractice Attorney Managing Partner, Duluth office of Sieben, Grose, Von Holtum & Carey

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School opens next week, Please Drive Safely!

Labor Day Greetings

from the
Duluth Federation of Teachers Local 692
Pickwick boycott into month three...from page 1

from the early 1900’s asking ‘can’t we all just get along,’ said Erickson. “This dispute is not about just the ladies but fairness for everyone at the Pickwick. It is just another attempt to divide the workplace and to make a mockery out of the rights of his workers.”

Cannon and Reinholt were both fired by Wisocki for picketing on their off hours as wait staff at the Pickwick. Wisocki had notified them by letters of his action and then contested their unemployment insurance claims. On Friday morning both received notification that they would be receiving unemployment insurance for having been locked out of their jobs.

Nothing Wisocki has tried in the many months of the dispute over negotiations for a contract renewal has worked. He has been cited for a number of labor law violations and Erickson said he is optimistic that major decisions in the union’s favor will come down shortly from the National Labor Relations Board.

Wisocki is saying that the union won’t come to the table but Erickson said that is completely untrue. Wisocki has bypassed the collective bargaining process on a number of occasions, dealing directly with his employees, even though negotiations are being arbitrated by the Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service.

Wisocki prepared an employee policy handbook that he gave to his workers. It undermined everything in the union contract.

“We’d love to get back to the table and have real discussions about wages, health care, and pensions, instead of having to picket outside... the Pickwick,” said Erickson.

Wisocki has hired young workers that he figures will be anti-union and even orchestrated a decertification effort of the union, which is illegal.

One good way of supporting the workers is to contact Chris Wisocki and ask him to negotiate with his workers’ union. He can be reached at 2 1 8 - 7 2 7 - 8 9 0 1 , cwisocki@charter.net.

If you are interested in standing with WU99 or would like to support them in other ways contact Todd Erickson at 1-218-728-6861 or email terickson@cmrjb.org.

The union and supporters picketed lunch and dinner hours and love to have people come and stand with them. Cannon and Reinholt say the support they’ve been receiving has been extremely important to them. Lately, Wisocki’s supporters have been harassing the women.

“Support is vital for keeping everyone’s spirit up during these tough times,” said Erickson. “The singers were great Saturday night and have been called on for an encore.”
One Wisconsin Now launches revised website to watch business interests

One Wisconsin Now has launched an updated version of its comprehensive watchdog website of Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, http://www.unionvoice.org/ct/u1601C51EaaU

“The site includes new contributions, revenue and expenditure totals, as well as additional research and analysis of the influence of Wisconsin's most powerful pro-corporate lobby,” said Wisconsin State AFL-CIO officers in an email. “(WMC) remains the most powerful lobbying and spending force in Wisconsin,” said Scot Ross, One Wisconsin Now Executive Director. “WMC Watch tracks that influence and shows the ways and the amounts of money WMC spends to pass its pro-corporate agenda.”

At WMC Watch, visitors are provided comprehensive information, and they can access social networking tools to help One Wisconsin Now and its volunteer “WMC Watchers” rein in the influence of the pro-corporate agenda. The WMC Watch website includes:

--The $30 million raised and spent by WMC from tax filings, WMC's history, boards' directors and its staff;
--The $10 million WMC's issue campaigns, including TV and radio ads and fact checks;
--The $1.1 million its boards and staff have donated to political candidates -- 83% to Republicans/conservatives;
--The $7 million WMC spent lobbying nearly 60,000 hours in the past decade;
--WMC's agenda on taxes, jobs, education, environment and health care and legislation it has supported and opposed;
--Research reports including analysis about legislative fealty to the WMC agenda;
--A fully-integrated WMC Watch Action Center that offers users the ability to help rein in WMC's influence.

“We know what happens when a government enacts WMC’s agenda of tax cuts for the rich, deregulation of the financial markets and reduced workers' rights,” said Ross. “To give Wisconsin the tools to battle back against WMC’s war on the middle class.”

A great Labor Day Holiday to all! We’ve earned it! from USW Local 1028

Thank You, LABOR!

A great Labor Day Holiday to all. We’ve earned it! from USW Local 1028

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Labor Day Greetings

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WE are POWERFUL when we SPEAK TOGETHER

Painters, Glaziers and Drywall Finishers IUPAT Local 106
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Happy Labor Day!

If I were a worker… the first thing I would do would be to join a union…”
~Franklin Delano Roosevelt

UFCW Local 1116
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Duluth, MN 55812
Phone: 1-218-728-5174
Fax: 1-218-728-5178
Toll Free: 1-800-942-3546
http://www.ufcw1116.org

Local 1116 United Food & Commercial Workers
A VOICE for working America
Public safety workers bargaining bill gains

(PAI)—A long-running cause of Fire Fighters – ordering all states to permit collective bargaining with public safety workers who are unionized – inched closer to final congressional approval when a bipartisan group of nine senators introduced it before the August congressional recess.

The Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act (S 1611) may be the last bill introduced by Senate Labor Committee Chair Edward Kennedy before he died Aug. 25. He and 8 other senators, including 5 Republicans put it in Aug. 7, just moments before Congress quit for its August recess. Similar legislation (HR 413) is pending in the House, which easily passed it last year.

“The more cosponsors we can add over the next few weeks, the better our position will be to move the legislation when Congress returns in September,” IAFF President Harold Schaitberger said. “This is yet another important milestone on the road to a national collective bargaining law.”

President Obama has promised to sign the bill.

Key provisions of the bill:
* Tells all states they must allow collective bargaining by unionized public safety workers – Fire Fighters, police, EMTs -- over wages, hours and working conditions. It also gives the workers the explicit right to form and join unions.
* North Carolina and Virginia ban collective bargaining by public safety workers.
* Alabama, Arkansas, South Carolina and Tennessee “allow collective bargaining if a municipality allows it, but they prohibit collective bargaining agreements,” an IAFF fact sheet says. Another 13 states let municipalities collectively bargain and sign contracts.
* A ban on strikes. Each state would also enact its own version of a public safety worker collective bargaining law. Disputes would be resolved through mediation, fact-finding and arbitration, but not binding arbitration.
* Protection of a worker’s right to part-time employment.

Labor Day Greetings

to our Brothers & Sisters in the Labor Movement!

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~Investigators~

We’ll All Enjoy Our Labor Day Holiday!

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Base Electric
Duluth, MN

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Two Harbors, MN

B & B Electrical
Iron Mountain, MI

Belknap Electric
Superior, WI

Belknap Tel-Comm
Superior, WI

Benson Electric
Superior, WI

Benson Electric
Virginia MN

Bergstrom Electric
Superior, WI

Duluth Electrical contracting Inc.
Duluth, MN

Electric Systems
Duluth, MN

Electrical Systems
Brainerd, MN

Energy & Air Systems
Superior, WI

Hart Electric
Hibbing, MN

Hoffman Electric
Brainerd, MN

Holden Electric
Baxter, MN

Kantor Electric
International Falls, MN

Laveau Electric
Wrenshall, MN

M. J. Electric
Iron Mountain, MI

North Country Electrical Services
Laporte, MN

Nylund Electric
Duluth, MN

Polyphase Electric
Duluth, MN

Seppala Electric
Hibbing, MN

Service Electric
Superior, WI

Town & Country Electric
Virginia, MN
A new report issued August 27 by the Department of Health and Human Services shines a light on what retirees have to gain from health reform, as well as the wholly unacceptable medical and financial consequences of inaction.

“America’s Seniors and Health Insurance Reform: Protecting Coverage and Strengthening Medicare” (http://healthreform.gov/reports/seniors/index.html) states that if no action is taken, Medicare premiums and out-of-pocket costs will soon eat up more than a third of a retiree’s Social Security benefits.

A typical older couple would need to save $300,000 for medical bills not covered by Medicare.

“Health reform is an opportunity to close the Medicare Part D ‘doughnut hole,’ lower prescription drug costs, help early retirees afford health care coverage, and assist middle-class families with the costs of long-term care,” said Alliance for Retired Americans Executive Director Edward F. Coyle. “A strong public plan option will hold insurance companies accountable and keep their premiums and business practices in check.”

The report also shows how health reform can both expand Medicare’s benefits for seniors and strengthen Medicare’s finances by eliminating wasteful taxpayer subsidies to big insurance companies.

The ARA is a constituency affiliate of the AFL-CIO. Visit www.retiredamericans.org.

August 25 Coyle issued a statement responding to Republican National Committee Chair Michael Steele’s unveiling of a so-called “Seniors’ Health Care Bill of Rights.”

“Today’s insurance industry-backed public relations move by the RNC is galling not only for its gross distortions of public policy issues, but also for its hypocrisy on the heels of high-profile GOP efforts to scare and confuse American seniors about the health care debate,” Coyle stated, noting a pattern of deception.

He continued, “These scare tactics are false, but not enough people know this, thanks to millions of dollars in television advertising and disruptive behavior at town hall meetings. Just weeks after resigning from public service, Sarah Palin wrote of ‘death panels’ when there clearly are none in these bills. ‘Republican Representative Ginny-Brown Waite, whose Florida district includes more Medicare beneficiaries than any other, said that Washington’s message to seniors was ‘Drop Dead.’ Former party leader-turned lobbyist Dick Armey made the ridiculous claim that it is ‘tyranny’ that seniors are forced to be in Medicare to receive benefits that would dramatically improve their health and economic well-being.”

In truth, leading Democratic proposals would make it easier for retirees to see a doctor, get a prescription filled, and afford long-term care.
Union leaders mourn passing of Senator Kennedy, a worker's advocate

By Mark Gruenberg, PAI
WASHINGTON - Union leaders reacted with deep sadness to the death August 25 of U.S. Senator Edward “Ted” Kennedy, of cancer at age 77. Several unionists said workers could best memorialize him by enacting his last two great causes: Universal affordable health care and the Employee Free Choice Act.

The Massachusetts Democrat, chair of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, was first elected in 1962 and was a consistent champion of workers' causes, unions said. He was a leading advocate of legislation to raise the minimum wage, guarantee safety and equal rights in the workplace and reform the nation's immigration laws.

Most recently, he helped lead the fight for universal, affordable health care.

"He was our senator -- a senator for working people, for poor people, for the old and the vulnerable," said AFL-CIO President John Sweeney. "For all those who needed a champion, he was our champion. He personified a sense of aspiration that has become America's aspiration -- to make things better, to make them more fair, to make our nation more compassionate and hopeful, to make life work for working men and women. He has left an enormous footprint on America."

Kennedy spoke at a recent rally in support of the Employee Free Choice Act, legislation he sponsored to make it easier for workers to join unions.

Change To Win Chair Anna Burger called Kennedy "a stalwart -- lion of the Senate -- giving a voice and hope to all working families. He led the fights that have the biggest impact on providing greater economic security and opportunity for all: From giving workers the right to have a voice at work, to raising the minimum wage and worker safety standards, to creating comprehensive immigration reform....The most fitting tribute to honoring the life and legacy of this great statesman is for Congress to pass quality affordable health care for all this year."

Communications Workers President Larry Cohen said, "Every major advance, every step forward for working families came about because of his efforts. Medicare and Medicaid, family and medical leave, workers rights, retirement security, equal rights and fair treatment for women, civil rights for people of color, the list goes on....We will extend that legacy when we achieve one of Kennedy's greatest passions, health care for all."

United Food & Commercial Workers President Joe Hansen said Kennedy's "passion, his vision and his devotion to the issues that matter ensured that working men and women had a voice in the halls of Congress."

Dozens of other labor leaders also praised Kennedy.

Kennedy will be buried near his slain brothers, President John F. Kennedy and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, D-N.Y., at Arlington National Cemetery.

"...the work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives, and the dream shall never die."

This is the cause of my life. It is a key reason that I defied my illness last summer to speak at the Democratic convention in Denver -- to support Barack Obama, but also to make sure, as I said, "that we will break the old gridlock and guarantee that every American...will have decent, quality health care as a fundamental right and not just a privilege." For four decades I have carried this cause -- from the floor of the United States Senate to every part of this country. It has never been merely a question of policy; it goes to the heart of my belief in a just society. Now the issue has more meaning for me -- and more urgency -- than ever before. But it's always been deeply personal, because the importance of health care has been a recurrent lesson throughout most of my 77 years.

~Edward Moore "Ted" Kennedy
February 22, 1932 – August 25, 2009

Jim Oberstar fights to advance labor rights and create new jobs through his new leadership role In Congress.


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Best Wishes on Labor Day
A Port Is Only As Good As Its Labor-

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Duluth Seaway Port Authority
www.duluthport.com
22 construction firms recognized for safety

LINO LAKES, MN - (August 25, 2009) - Despite the economy’s negative impact on Minnesota building projects, 22 regional construction firms have been recognized by Minnesota Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust (LECET) for their commitment to worker safety in 2008.

Begun in 2007, the Minnesota LECET Safety Driven Incentive Program recognizes the excellent safety performance and proactive approach of Skilled Construction Union Laborers and Signatory employers in Minnesota and North Dakota. “A safe work environment is critical to successful construction,” said Minnesota LECET Construction Marketing Director Dwight Engen. “Collectively, these contractors have been exceptional at creating high quality projects while protecting the well-being of their workers.”

The following 22 construction firms were recognized for their commitment to safety.

• Adolfson & Peterson, Minneapolis
• Alvin E. Benike, Inc., Rochester
• Bituminous Roadways, Inver Grove Heights
• Carl Bolander & Sons, St. Paul
• Frattalone Companies, St. Paul
• Hardrives, Inc., Rogers
• JE Dunn Construction, Eden Prairie
• JR Jensen Construction, Superior, WI
• Knutson Construction, Minneapolis
• Kraus-Anderson, Minneapolis
• Lakehead Constructors, Inc., Superior, WI
• McGough Construction, St. Paul
• Midwest Specialty Maintenance, Brooklyn Park
• Minnesota Limited, Inc., Big Lake
• MA Mortenson Construction, Minneapolis
• Northland Concrete and Masonry, Burnsville
• PCL Construction Services, Burnsville
• Quality Contracting, Little Canada
• Ryan Companies US, Inc., Minneapolis
• S.R. Weidema, Maple Grove
• Veit, Rogers
• Xcel Energy, Special Construction, Minneapolis

The Minnesota Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust (LECET) is a non-profit joint Labor/Management organization created to facilitate and promote the positive relationships between Construction Craft Laborers and their Construction Contractor Employers.

Enjoy a safe, well-deserved holiday from your labors, but get yourself prepared to vote in this fall’s elections from your friends in the 19 affiliates of the Iron Range Building & Trades Council

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President John Grahek, 1-218-741-2482
Recording Secretary Dennis Marchetti
Financial-Secretary Michael Syversrud, 107 S. 15th Ave. W., Virginia, MN. 55792

Here’s something to think about this Labor Day........

“This troubled planet is a place of the most violent contrasts. Those that receive the rewards are totally separated from those who shoulder the burdens. It is not a wise leadership.”

Mr. Spock, on Star Trek, episode 74 (first aired February 28, 1969)

Looks like the more things change the more they stay the same.

Bill Hilty
Prepared and paid for by Hilty Volunteer Committee, Finlayson, MN. 55735

LABOR DAY~~There’s no question you deserve it!

Minnesota Laborers Employers Cooperation & Education Trust (LECET) is proud to recognize these Twin Ports Union Contractors who received awards for participating in our LECET SAFETY DRIVEN PROGRAM:

J.R. Jensen Construction--J.R. Jensen worked hard at and lowered their EMR, Loss Time and Dart case ratings in 2008. They developed a new daily Job Hazard Assessment form, presented daily to all employees on their jobs.

Lakehead Constructors--Lakehead received the Thomas Reynolds Award for Excellence in Construction Safety and had 1 million man hours worked with a Loss Time Incident Rating of 25% or more below the average. Lakehead has installed a company wide pre-employment day testing program and hired an additional safety professional.

Veit Companies/Duluth region--Veit has received an OSHA CHASE award-White Level and also received a Minnesota Occupational Health & Safety Governor's Meritorious Achievement Award, while implementing safety rewards programs and 100% eyeware policy.

Minnesota LECET--Labor and Management Working Together
Fire Fighters back Obama’s choice for Fire Administration

WASHINGTON (PAI) -- Saying his advocacy for his firefighters’ health and safety on the job earned the union’s respect, the Fire Fighters backed Democratic President Barack Obama’s nomination of Atlanta Fire Chief Kelvin J. Cochran to head the U.S. Fire Administration.

If confirmed to head the agency, Cochran, a 28-year veteran of fire fighting in Atlanta and in Shreveport, La., would head an agency that provides both specialized fire fighting and rescue training at its campus in western Maryland and that also distributes federal funds for training and equipment to local fire departments.

“Cochran’s willingness to advocate for the personnel under his leadership earned him the respect and admiration of IAFF members in Shreveport and, later, Atlanta,” IAFF President Harold Schaitberger wrote senators on Aug. 4. The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee held a hearing on Cochran’s nomination the next day.

Schaitberger called Cochran “a passionate advocate for firefighter health and safety.” He added that “Chief Cochran’s experience, understanding of emergency operations at all levels and inclusive approach to management make him uniquely qualified to be U.S. Fire Administrator.”

We cannot allow those who wrap themselves in the flag and say they love this country, but vote against Labor on issue after issue, to receive our vote.

Warm up your meetings

Labor Day's next week, the temperatures will start to drop, and attendance will probably pick up at your meetings. Treat those good souls who are there for their union to a warm meal delivered from T-Bonz.

2531 West Superior St.
727-0020
Grill

Oh yah, we deliver!

Call for help in setting up your party!

Happy Hour M-F 3-6, $1 off Drinks, 1/2 off Apps

Have a Great Holiday!

Proud to be part of the Annual Labor Day Picnic!

Teamsters Local 346
~Minnesota and Wisconsin~

Patrick Radzak
Secretary-Treasurer

Roderick Alstead
Vice President

Les Kundo
Business Agent/Trustee

Gary Bauers
Trustee

We appreciate your hard work.

Happy Labor Day!

Jim Ward
952-992-2662

MEDICA.
www.medica.com

LABOR DAY 2009

This Labor Day let us reflect on those who withheld their labor in order to win an 8-hour work day for us, on those who demanded and won a “Union Shop” contract, paid vacations, health care coverage, pensions, and improved safety.

This year’s local elections--Sept. 15 and Nov. 3--may not be as glamorous as last year’s national elections but they are still very important to working families. Decisions will be made by local elected officials that will affect us. VOTE!

"All that serves labor serves the Nation. All that harms is treason. If a man tells you that he loves America, yet hates labor, he is a liar. If a man tells you he trusts America, yet fears labor, he is a fool. There is no America without labor, and to fleece the one is to rob the other." ~Abraham Lincoln

Labor World News, Wednesday, September 2, 2009 PAGE 19
Young workers had “lost decade” ... from page 5

Have savings that would cover two months of living expenses.

Only 58% receive paid sick days, 66% receive paid vacation and only 41% are offered paid family leave.

• Only 37% have put off education or professional development because it’s unaffordable.
• Jobs, health care and education top the economic agenda for young workers.
• When asked who is most responsible for the country’s economic woes, close to 50% of young workers place the blame on Wall Street and banks or corporate CEOs. And young workers say greed by corporations and CEOs is the factor most to blame for the current financial downturn.
• By a 22-point margin, young workers favor expanding public investment over reducing the budget deficit. Young workers rank conservative economic approaches such as reducing taxes, government spending and regulation on business among the five lowest of 16 long-term priorities for Congress and the president.
• 35% say they voted for the first time in 2008, and nearly three-quarters now keep tabs on government and public affairs, even when there’s not an election going on.
• The majority of young workers and nearly 70% of first-time voters are confident that Obama will take the country in the right direction.
• More than half of young workers say employees are more successful getting problems resolved as a group rather than as individuals, and employees who have a union are better off than employees in similar jobs who do not.

Also at the Labor Day briefing, AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Holt Baker detailed a national mobilization around health care and labor law reform currently underway. Union families are working days, nights, and weekends, she said, to ensure that Congress knows that working people consider health care and the labor law reform an urgent national priority. More than 18,000 union members attended 400 town halls in the month of August alone. Union families have made close to 200,000 phone calls and written over 250,000 letters this year to senators and representatives about health care and workers’ freedom to form unions and bargain for a better life. This Labor Day weekend, over 100,000 union members will make a push for health care and the Employee Free Choice Act at celebrations around the country.

Teamsters Joint Council 32
Minnesota • Iowa
North and South Dakota

Labor Day Greetings

EXECUTIVE BOARD

SUSAN MAUREN
President

PATRICK RADZAK
Secretary-Treasurer

MARK RIME
Vice President

DANIEL BARTHOLOMEW
Recording Secretary

LAWRENCE YOSWA
Trustee

BRAD SLAWSON, SR.
Trustee

GARY DUNHAM
Trustee

AFFILIATED LOCAL UNIONS

Local 90 Claudia Pettit, Secretary-Treasurer
Local 120 Brad Slawson, Sr., Secretary-Treasurer
Local 160 Wayne Perleberg, Secretary-Treasurer
Local 238 Gary Dunham, Secretary-Treasurer
Local 289 Dan Bartholomew, Secretary-Treasurer
Local 320 Sue Mauren, Secretary-Treasurer
Local 346 Pat Radzak, Secretary-Treasurer
Local 471 Dave Laxen, Secretary-Treasurer
Local 638 Mark Rime, Secretary-Treasurer
Local 749 Randy Knudtson, Secretary-Treasurer
Local 792 Larry Yoswa, Secretary-Treasurer
Local 970 Scott Gelhar, Secretary-Treasurer
Local 974 Tom Tweet, Secretary-Treasurer
Local 1145 Milt Nordmeyer, Secretary-Treasurer

Labor Day: Let’s Celebrate the Worker!

UNITED STEELWORKERS

UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS

District 11
United Steelworkers District #11
2929 University Avenue SE, Suite #150
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Have a Great Holiday!

From the members of

ibew
DULUTH

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Local 242

Please Remember To Vote in the Sept. 15 Primary Election and in Nov. 3’s General Election!

“Bad officials are the ones elected by good citizens who do not vote.”
~ George Jean Nathan
IBEW Local 31 awards scholarships

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 31 has awarded four, $500 John W. Johnson Scholarships for 2009 to children of their members.

Kristen Jahr is the daughter of Donald Jahr, a Minnesota Power-Rowe Energy Control Center employee and union member since 1981. Kristen, a Proctor High graduate, is attending Gustavus Adolphus College studying biochemistry and molecular biology.

Luke Matheson’s father, James, is a Minnesota Power-Boswell employee. He joined the union last year. Luke graduated from Grand Rapids High School and is currently attending Minnesota State-Mankato and study social work.

Silver Bay High School graduate Kasey Talus is attending UMD studying accounting and finance. Her father, Dave, works for Minnesota Power-M.L. Hibbard and has been in Local 31 since 1984.

The scholarships were established in 1988 by John Johnson, a former IBEW 31 president and an International Vice President. With this year’s awards, 88 children of IBEW 31 members have received one of his non-renewable scholarships. Students must meet a minimal qualification requirement and all qualifiers’ names are thrown into a pool. Winners are chosen by lot. Applications are available each January by calling IBEW 31 at (218) 728-4248. Applicants must be ready to enroll in a higher education institution or can be a higher ed student.

IBEW 31 represents over 990 active members employed in 19 bargaining units in northwest Wisconsin, and the central and northern regions of Minnesota. Local 31 has 412 retirees.

Labor Day 2009...a small reward

Working men and women are the greatest resource this country has. They are the reason for the incredible progress America has made. We’re working to see that they’re rewarded for their efforts.

from the membership
of IBEW
Local 31

Proud to be celebrating over a century of supporting workers

Representing workers at:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cooperative</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arrowhead Electric</td>
<td>Lutsen, MN</td>
<td>624-7426</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bayfield Electric Co-op</td>
<td>Iron River, WI</td>
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<tr>
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<td>City of Staples - Water &amp; Light Commission</td>
<td>Staples, MN</td>
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<td>Two Harbors, MN</td>
<td>728-3633</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of Wadena - Electric Water Dept.</td>
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<td>Crow Wing Cooperative Power &amp; Light</td>
<td>Brainerd, MN</td>
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<td>Itasca Mantrap Cooperative Electric Assn.</td>
<td>Park Rapids, MN</td>
<td>728-3633</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lake Country Power</td>
<td>Grand Rapids, Kettle River &amp; Virginia</td>
<td>728-3633</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative</td>
<td>Aitkin, MN</td>
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<td>Cloquet, MN</td>
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<td>Superior Water, Light &amp; Power</td>
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<td>728-3633</td>
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<tr>
<td>Todd-Wadena Electric Co-op</td>
<td>Wadena, MN</td>
<td>728-3633</td>
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Fighting the Radical Right

By Stewart Acuff...from page 1

1930’s, America’s radical right is attempting to shut down healthcare reform and change the power of the Big Lies -- death panels, socialism, government healthcare doesn’t work. If you oppose the public plan in the healthcare proposal and you are intellectually honest, then you must favor for all.

Now is the time for us to fight for our vision and our promise and for change, to fight for a healthcare system that ensures quality healthcare for all and checks the insane greed of the insurance industry, to fight to restore workers rights and restore the fundamental freedom in any Democratic society to freely form unions and bargain collectively.

When I say fight I don’t mean the thuggishness being used by the right. I mean peaceful, nonviolent mobilization that counters the Big Lies of the right, gives cover to weak Democrats and demonstrates convincingly that our ideas and policies are in the interests of a stronger, healthier, freer, and fairer America.

---

LAW LABOR

The Great American Labor Force has been the vital sector in making the good life even better for all of us.

Building America...with all the skill and energy characteristic of America Labor. We salute the men and women who make up our task force for progress --- who work today for a better tomorrow for all.

Laborers Local 1091
Duluth, MN/Superior, WI & Surrounding Counties

Dan Olson
Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Larry Anderson
President
Zac Hanson
Sgt.-at-Arms
John Schneider
Ed Pfankuch
Chris Thacker
Auditors

Brad Bukovich
Vice President
Bill Cox
Recording Secretary
Kyle Koller
Jim Gagnon
Mark Maki
Executive Board

Thank You to Organized Labor for bringing recognition to all Workers this Labor Day!
See you in Virginia’s Olcott Park, Sunday, Sept. 6!

Sen. David TOMASSONI
Rep. Tom RUKAVINA
Rep. Tony SERTICH

Acuff returns...from page 1

In 1982, he joined the union movement as the organizing coordinator for the Service Employees International Union in Texas, where he was responsible for a campaign in which employees of 12 Beverly Enterprises nursing homes organized into the SEIU. In 1985, he became executive director of the Georgia State Employees Union/SEIU Local 1985. He helped build a union of 2,500 state workers despite the fact that public employees in Georgia had no collective bargaining rights, no dues check-off, no rights to meet and confer and no provisions for union recognition.

Job seekers outnumber jobs here 12 to 1

The latest Job Vacancy Survey from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development shows that in Northeast Minnesota there are 17,600 unemployed workers competing for 1,500 unfilled jobs. This means that job seekers now outnumber job openings by nearly 12-to-1. Those figures cover Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, and St. Louis counties. Statewide there are 240,000 unemployed workers competing for only 31,000 unfilled jobs, an 8-to-1 ratio. Two years ago it was a 2-to-1 ratio in Minnesota. Just two years ago, the ratio of job seekers to job openings in Northeast Minnesota was two and a half to one. Since then, job seekers have risen 78 percent; job openings have fallen 61 percent.

Other major findings for the Arrowhead Region include:
- The median wage for all job openings is $8.00 per hour.
- More than half (53 percent) of the openings are part-time.
- About three-quarters (74 percent) require no education or training beyond high school.
- Of the six occupational groups with the most job openings in the region, only one offers a median wage higher than $10.01 per hour. JOBS NOW’s Cost of Living research shows that in a Northeast Minnesota family of four with both parents working, each worker must earn $12.07 per hour to meet basic needs.
- Duluth’s unemployment rate for July was 7.4%, down from 8% in June. Other cities were in even worse shape with Virginia and Hibbing at 17% or worse, Grand Rapids over 12%, and Cloquet over 9%.
- The Duluth-Superior metropolitan area (St. Louis, Carlton, and Douglas counties) saw about 1,400 jobs created last month. The region’s unemployment rate fell from 10.4% in June to July’s 9.4%.
- Minnesota’s unemployment rate is 7.8%.
- Wisconsin’s unemployment rate is 9.0%, double the rate of unemployment at the start of the recession in December 2007.

Information is from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, JOBS NOW Coalition (www.jobsnowcoalition.org), and the Center on Wisconsin Strategy (www.cows.org).
Primary Elections must engage voters: It can be the end of a campaign

By Alan Netland, President Duluth AFL-CIO Central Labor Body & North East Area Labor Council

Every fall, Duluthians head to the polls in massive numbers for local, state, or national elections that make this area the envy of the nation for its voter turnout.

This fall is no different and it is no less important in spite of the historic election we had last November in America. But this year, we can’t wait until November’s General Election to go to the polls.

Some of our Duluth AFL-CIO Central Labor Body endorsed candidates for Duluth City Council, Duluth School Board and Duluth City Council at-large.

Fundraiser for labor candidates

Everyone is invited to a fundraiser for Duluth City Council and Duluth School Board candidates that have been endorsed by the Duluth AFL-CIO Central Labor Body. (See ad below)

The fundraiser will be held just prior to the Central Body’s monthly meeting on Thursday, September 10, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. in Wellstone Hall of the Duluth Labor Temple, 2002 London Road (enter via the doors that face Lake Superior on South Street).

Stop by Wellstone Hall and take advantage of the opportunity to chat with labor’s endorsed candidates just five days before the Tuesday, Sept. 15 Primary Election.

A donation of $25 is being suggested, but all contributions are welcome. Snacks and beverages will be provided.

No Primary in Minneapolis

There will be no Primary Election in September in this year’s municipal elections in the City of Minneapolis. Voters will go to the polls just once this fall—Tuesday, Nov. 3—and then will vote not only for the candidate of their choice, but also can rank other candidates as their second and third choices.

“Ranked Choice Voting” will be used for the first time this year after being approved by voters in a 2006 referendum. Supporters of the system say it’s better because low turnout in Primaries gives too much influence to a small subset of voters.

Under RCV if no candidate receives a majority, voters’ second and third choices will be counted to determine a winner.

www.voteminneapolis.org has more on the process.

~Minneapolis Labor Review

To All Our Affiliated Union Members:

Come enjoy your Labor Day Picnic with your family at Bayfront Festival Park

Monday, Sept. 7, Noon-4

The Duluth AFL-CIO Central Labor Body

Please remember to vote in the Sept. 15 Primary Election and the Nov. 3 General Election. Bring someone with you to the polls, especially a child, and show them how important and easy voting is! Call your city clerk (Duluth, 723-3340) or county auditor (St. Louis Co., 726-2385) for voting requirements and locations.

Politics begin at your dinner table, in your neighborhood and at your worksite. Help others realize how important politics and voting are in the lives of working families.

These are our endorsed candidates. The page 1 graphic can be a handy voting aide when you go to the polls.