Como Picnic

This summer we had our first annual Como Picnic! Thanks to everyone that showed up. Despite the rain we had hundreds of SEIU Local 284 members and families make it out to Como Park for our 2019 member picnic. We had a great day with good food and conversation. Members had a chance to go on rides in Como Town, enter a drawing to win prizes, and visit animals at the Zoo with their family. If you didn’t have a chance to attend, we hope to see you next year!

People that are interested in supporting Unions for All.

The presidential election will be a huge opportunity for SEIU members to make the importance of unions central to the national discourse. The Koch brothers are investing millions of dollars to ensure that you don’t have a union or a contract, ask yourself why would they do that?

SIMPLE: No Union = no power = no contract = they have all the control over you and your working conditions!

Is that what you really want? Or do you want to be a union that has the control? The choice is yours!

If you are interested in joining the Unions for All Organizing Network, to be a leader in SEIU Local 284 and represent our union’s interests contact our Political Coordinator.

Chris Stinson
ChrisS@Local284.com | 651-256-9309
What is Wage Theft?

More than 39,000 Minnesotans report having wages stolen each year by their employers, and that’s just the people who report wage theft. That’s why the Minnesota Legislature passed the strongest wage theft law in the country this past year. We know that wage theft is an issue for our members. Here are some questions to consider in order to make sure you don’t have any stolen wages:

Do you have a duty-free scheduled lunch? If not, that’s wage theft.
Are you working off the clock? If you are, that’s wage theft.
Has a supervisor ever altered your payroll without discussion? If a supervisor has done this, that’s wage theft.

If you think you might be experiencing lost wages after asking yourself these questions, contact your Union Rep. and/or the Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry to hold your employer accountable and make sure you are being fairly paid for your time.

Member of the Year: Beverly Tinney

SEIU is proud to recognize Beverly Tinney as our member of the year. Recently Beverly was awarded the 2019 RISE Award for her outstanding work in our schools and in our union. Beverly started her career as a social worker before taking time to raise her kids. When she returned to work, it was as a Paraeducator, something she expected to do for “one or two years” Yet here she is, over 12 years later, beloved by students, co-workers and fellow union members. In all her actions, from the classroom to the Capitol, Beverly is fighting for a future where all Minnesota students can reach their full potential. Beverly was the clear choice to receive the 2019 RISE AWARD. Combining kindness, compassion, hard work and an unwavering commitment to fight for the future she believes in, Beverly is a wonderful ambassador for our union.

How are schools funded?

Reform laws enacted to address funding disparities between property tax rich and property tax poor districts, taken together, came to be known as the Minnesota Miracle of 1971. The Minnesota Miracle, which funded all schools in the state at the same per pupil level survived, relatively unchanged, for more than 30 years until 2002. Between 2002 and 2011 state funding for education didn’t keep up with the rate of inflation and school districts began to rely on voter approved property tax levies for their general operating budgets. The inequity between property tax rich and property tax poor districts and disparities between districts where voters approved property tax increases and districts where they did not began to increase again. We need to return to an equitable funding formula so students in low property tax wealth communities have the same educational opportunities as students in affluent zip codes.

Union Myths

Myth: Unions only support the bad workers

Truth: Unions support all employees by ensuring they aren’t fired for any reason. A boss must establish just cause before firing an employee.

Myth: The union tells you who to vote for.

Truth: We only endorse candidates that are supported by our members. The process is open to anyone in the union.
Member Benefit Highlights

As a member, you are eligible for a variety of benefits. Local 284 offers benefits like scholarships for union members or their family, discounted lasik surgery, memorials when a loved one has passed, and free/discounted trainings throughout the year. Additionally, you can find more benefits like free college, or discounts on travel and entertainment at seiu284.org.

Visit our website at seiu284.org, and look under the “For Members” tab to find more information.

To make sure that you qualify for these benefits, call the Local 284 office at 651-256-9100 to ensure that you are a member in good standing.

Know your Rights

What are the Weingarten Rights?

During investigatory interviews, employees have the right to request union representation if the employee has a reasonable belief that discipline or adverse consequences may result from what they say. Management is not required to inform the employee of these rights.

For more information on these rights, and a full list of what your rights are, visit our website.

Highlights on Recent Contract Wins:

Rum River Administrative Assistants

- A tentative agreement was reached for their first contract. With the contract, all employees will receive a 4.5% increase in wages.
- The agreement also resulted in an increase in district contribution to health insurance for single, 2 person, and family health plans.

New Ulm Secretaries

- A day was added for which an employee can receive compensation when school is closed due to weather (up to 2 days now).
- Improved school district contributions towards health insurance. The school district was aiming to limit its costs and shift an ever greater burden onto members. Our team held firm during negotiations and received an increase on contributions from the employer.

2019 Scholarship winners:

Ben Alberg, Spring Lake Park  
Lilia Bjorg, Prior Lake  
Jennifer Eldredge’s child, Elk River  
Lori Greenlun’s child, Maple Lake  
Nichole Nelson’s child, Braham  
Teresa Ruohomaki’s child, White Bear Lake  
Shelly Starz, Sartell-St Stephen  
Tammy Utecht’s child, St Cloud
LOCAL 284 OFFICERS

**Executive Director:** Kelly Gibbons

**President:** Keith Niemi

**Vice Presidents:** Mark Krey, Valerie Rolstad

**Trustees:** Steve Miltich, Sue McNertney, Lori Smith

**Members at Large:** Anne Bipes, Melanie Custer, Cynthia Gross, Sabrina Stadther, Michael Sylvester

**Sergeant at Arms:** Tilly Gitchuway

**Senior Member:** Mark Hanson

The Officers of Local 284 make up the Executive Board. Executive Board meetings are open to all members in good standing. Please contact Union headquarters if you would like to attend.

Upcoming Meetings

09/19/19 — Executive Board Meeting
3:15 - 6 p.m., Old Chicago Pizza, Apple Valley

09/19/19 — General Member Meeting
6 - 7 p.m., Old Chicago Pizza, Apple Valley

10/17/19 — Executive Board Meeting
3:15 - 6 p.m., Local 284 Union Office

10/26/19 — Leadership Assembly
9 a.m., Fridley Community Center

See our website for the complete list.

Change of Address or Phone Number?

Please let us know by contacting our office at (651) 256-9100
Or by emailing Haley at haleyj@local284.com