

STRONGER TOGETHER



ANOKA HENNEPIN

Valerie Holthus

President

September 16, 2022

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Friday Blast

AHEM Supports Striking Nurses

President Val Holthus, retired member, Jody Anderson, AHEM endorsed MN senate candidate, Kari Rehrauer and retired teacher, Catherine Kurdziel joined members of the Minnesota Nurses Association to show solidarity on Monday. 15,000 nurses walked off their jobs for three days in protest over pay and staffing levels. The protest, which ended at 7 a.m. Thursday, involves nurses from Allina, Children's and Fairview hospitals in the Twin Cities along with HealthPartners' Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park and North Memorial Health in Robbinsdale. Nurses were also on strike at St. Luke's and Essentia Health hospitals in Duluth and Superior, Wis.



Picketing nurses said wage increases are important, but that consistent staffing

levels are desperately needed.

The trauma of working short-staffed, which happens daily, adds up over time, not unlike managing large class sizes and unreasonably large caseloads with minimal para and/or administrative support in our schools.

The nurses' contracts expired on May 31 in the Twin Cities and June 30 in Duluth. First-year nurses are making about \$36 per hour at Twin Cities hospitals, while those with 10 years of experience are making around \$51. The hospitals hired thousands of temporary nurses, often at double the usual wages or more, to keep hospitals operating.

MNA leaders have estimated this is the largest private sector nursing strike in U.S. history. The addition of 2,500 nurses from Duluth makes it the largest action in Minnesota. The AHEM Executive Board and Representative Assembly voted unanimously Monday night to donate \$500 from their solidarity fund to show support for our union brothers and sisters.

Source: AFL/CIO Daily Brief, 9/13/22

LABOR 2022 is well underway and we need you!

Our First Day of Action door knock is this Saturday, September 17th at 10:00AM. We are launching out of our union office: Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota: 3200 Main Street NW #360, Coon Rapids. State Auditor and former **AHEM President, Julie Blaha**, will be joining us along with other local elected officials. Can't make it this Saturday? We will host another event on Saturday, October 15, same place, same time.

Please come for the free, fun and fabulous festivities all while supporting law makers who make the right decisions for you, your students and your career.

Trivia is Back!!!

Congratulations to the winners of last week's trivia question:

The answer to last week's question was:

What union is AFL/CIO's latest affiliate?

c. Major League Baseball Players

The first three people to get the correct answer will receive a coffee gift card.

“Working Partnerships” is an organization that helps union members who are on strike, and who

Union

Congratulations to last week's winners:
Danielle Blansham, Northdale MS
Jessica Higgins, Adams Elem
Bobbi Anderson, Coon Rapids MS



live in the Minneapolis and West Metro Region.

Which item below is something that was not done for union members who were on strike in the past year?

- a. Made Rent/Mortgage Payments
- b. Shoveled Snow
- c. Provided Transportation
- d. Fixed Broken Appliances
- e. Paid Utility and Doctor Bills

Please email your answer to Valerie.Holthus@EdMN.org

Government Relations Report

Aaron Balzer, Government Relations Chair

Pledge to Vote:

There are 2 main ways for you to protect education:

- 1) Show up at the polls in November. Be heard.
- 2) Sign up to be a Worksite Action Leader. Help your building rep with 2 Get Out the Vote events.

We're offering you \$150 for your time and energy this time around. It sounds like this payment may be a limited time offer so act now! (Please talk with your rep to make a difference!)

Governor's Race: A recent poll has found Governor Walz leading candidate Jensen by 18 points.

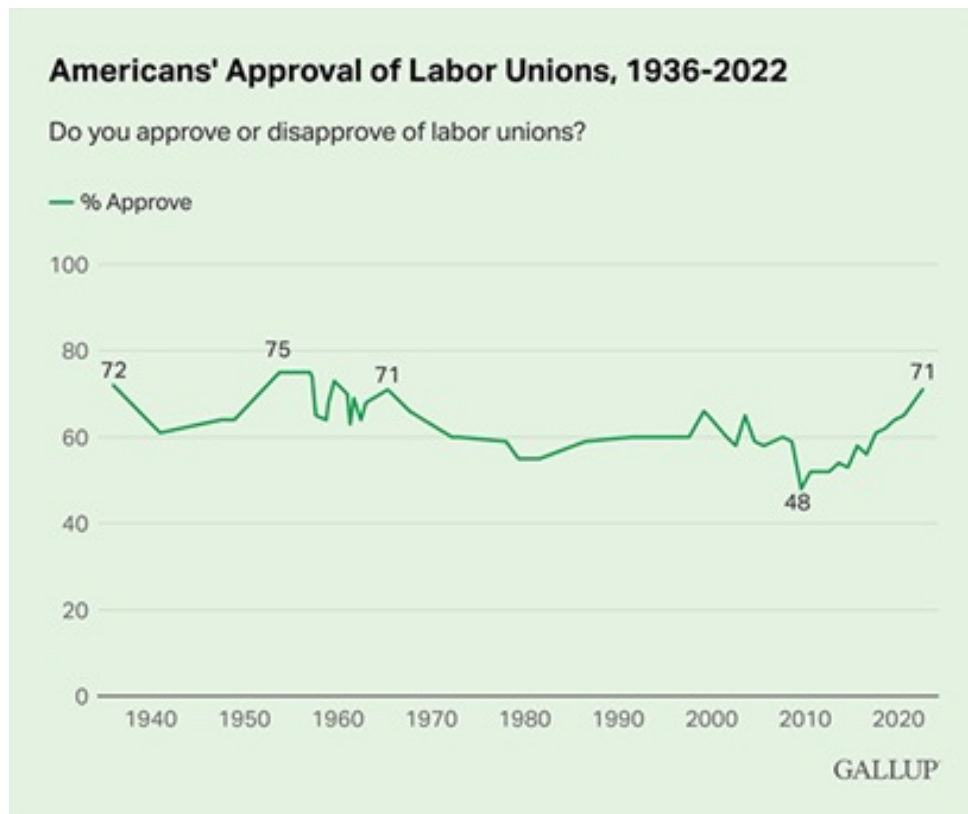
Although Jensen polled well early, he has dropped off dramatically. He also continues to say things like, "*We need to fund kids, and not broken institutions.*" He would rather see vouchers, reallocations, and so-called 'school-choice' than adequately fund public education.

[KSTP/SurveyUSA poll: Walz expands lead over Jensen to double digits](https://www.apmresearchlab.org/poll-watch-minnesota-2022)

<https://www.apmresearchlab.org/poll-watch-minnesota-2022>

[click here for Elections, Licensing and US Legislative Action](#)

Approval of Labor Unions Continues to Rise



According to **the latest annual Gallup poll** on union favorability, released today, 71% of Americans approve of labor unions, the highest rate in nearly 60 years. As approval of labor unions rises, workers are springing into action. The period from October 2021 through June of this year **saw a nearly 60% increase** in petitions filed to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) by workers seeking to unionize.

Union members enjoy higher wages, safer working conditions, lifesaving benefits, job security, and dignity and respect!

SEED (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity)

**Sign up soon, cohorts are
filling fast!**

We have amazing speakers this year and facilitators who are excited to work with AHEM members.



Meet Laura Lucarelli, our newest SEED facilitator

Hi, I'm Laura Lucarelli. I've been a SEED participant for the past 4 years, and this year I will be starting my first year as a facilitator with Mary Jo Lockett, veteran SEED facilitator of 31 years. It has been so meaningful to me to participate in SEED, and find a group where we can discuss justice - for our students and our communities. For me, this work is always ongoing, and it is powerful to have a safe space to learn and reflect. I can't wait to learn from and with you! We would love to see you at the Union SEED site (at the Union office near the Coon Rapids Target).

Through book studies, articles and films, guest speaker presentations, guided reflections, and intentional discussions, SEED seminars offer Anoka-Hennepin teachers and staff a monthly professional development opportunity to share their experiences and perspectives as it relates to facilitating an equitable education for all students. Learn more about SEED here: [SEED Hype Video](#)

Earn CEUs (27) for no charge.
Earn college credits through St. Catherine University

Please register online through LMS (under Lock and Key), go to "course catalog" and type SEED in the search box.

If you have general questions, please contact Beth Heimerl

(beth.heimerl@ahschool.us)

or

Beth Popalisky (sweetlily@gmail.com.)

We look forward to working with you!

A Message from AFT President, Randi Weingarten

If you ask most teachers and parents, they'll tell you that they believe in our public schools and want to focus on what our kids and communities need. After all we've been through, those basics like reading, after-school clubs and mental health services have never been more important.

That's **why** AFT launched a new ad to show that the contrast between the political extremists and the educators and staff working in our schools couldn't be starker.



This is just one way we're showing classroom educators doing what they do best: engaging their students, expanding students' horizons, and helping them develop the practical skills and critical thinking they need to succeed in life.

In unity,
Randi Weingarten
AFT President

Member-Only Professional Development Opportunities

The following re-licensure classes will be available this trimester. The sign up window will open on October 7 and links will be sent to you from your building rep. All classes will be virtual.

October 25 - English Learners
October 27- Suicide Prevention
November 1 - Mental Health
November 3 - Positive Intervention
November 10 - Reading
November 15 - Modifications

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!



9/1-9/3

SAM WESTERBERG,
GEORGIA LARSON,
NICHOLAS HEUER, MALIA
OVITT, JENNIFER PAULSON,
KATHLEEN MARCOUILLER,
JALEN GILES, DANYELLE
HALEY, LYNN FLORMAN,
SARAH WEIL, DANIELLE
KOTECKI, MARY
MORACZEWSKI, KRISTIN
CONTONS, SYDNEY
ERNST, MARY BOREN,
JENNIFER MANION,
KIMBERLY ENTINGER,
CHRISTIAN KLEIN, JAMES
KULLA , KIERSTEN THOMSEN,
SUZANNE BRANDT, KYLE
HEMMERICH



9/4 - 9/10

JONATHAN ENNS, NATALIE CREE,
RIM FELEGY, BARBARA SCHAUST,
CHRISTOPHER
KAMRATH, CHRISTOPHER
BONDE, LUCAS SLIZEWSKI,
ALEXANDER GENTZ, TERRA
BLACKWELL, HANNAH YESKEL,
JAMES MARSHALL, CALLA
ATHMAN, SARA LUNDQUIST,
BRADLEY ZAHLER , KRISTIN
RUTZ, DANIELLE KRAUSE, CAITLIN
RAMSBY, LUKE AMUNDSON, ANN
ROTONDO, LISA JERNELL, JACK
MEYER, SARAH JOHNSON, LAURA
HANSEN, NATHAN BEAL, KAITLYN
RAEKER, MELISSA
KATH, ELIZABETH
HOEBEN, PATRICIA CLARK,
WENDY WRIGHT, JESSICA
GARBACZ, LISA HEIDEN, SARAH
ZILLMANN, KATE LORENZ, KATIE
MADES, JAMI HOLOIEN, BRANDON
SCHAA, ARJA CODY, CAROL
ZIMMERMAN, LENA
STEVENSON, ERIK ANDERSEN,
DEANNA KLICK, TARA
KEITHAHN MARY HAGBERG, MARK
SUNDBERG, JESSICA OLSON



9/11 - 9/17

JOHN ALMOS, PATRICK
PANGBORN, DANIEL
BORDWELL, MARIE
MARTINEAU, ANNE ERDMAN,
MORGAN BURQUEST,
SAMUEL CARVER, RACHEL
MIRECKI, CINDY GALVIN,
DANIELLE ULNESS, REBECCA
HAUKOM, JESSICA
SLOBODZIAN, MARY
JACOBSON, THEODORE
MITSHULIS, KELLY BEULKE,
JENNIFER LEHMAN, NICOLE
REICKS, KARI SMITH,
JOSHUA AHLQUIST, ASHLEY
SALVO, MACKENZIE WOJCIK,
CASEY GAARDER, LAURA
CASON, KARIN
RIDLEHOOVER, ERIC
JOHNSON, CARLEEN
KNIEBEL, KATRINA PELZEL,
SARAH
JOHNSON, ALEXANDRA
BRINDA, TAYLER BENGTON,
RENEE SCHECHTER,
VICTORIA BARNES, JOANN
ARNESON, ALICIA POWERS,
SARA KEEN, AMY PURINTON,
MICHAEL PHILLIPS, LUCAS
EBERT, JENNIE DANNEMAN,
PETER KUTCHES, MARK
CORCORAN, JULIE
BEAUFEAUX, LEONIE GILES,
SHEENA PEASE, CONNOR
RAUTIO, CAMILLE
OLLANKETO, JACQUELINE
JOHNSON, KAREN JONES,
BRENT LAGREE, KATHERINE
KAISER, MADISON
ANDERSON, KELLY PHILLIPS,
NICOLE CANCIALOSI, TERI
SUTTERER, JILL APPEL,
NICOLE HEDMAN, MELISSA
EILERTSON, SHANNON FOX,
JOHN BAYER, SYDNEY



9/18 - 9/24

MINDY CICH, GARY GRAD,
JODY COLLINS, WILLIAM
TREMBLEY, WESTIN
SATZINGER, NICOLE
STALBOERGER, JOSEPH
SEARS, EVAN BICZKOWSKI,
LYNNSEY
PLAISANCE, ANGELA HEIDA ,
PATRICK STINER , HEATHER
STOW , TIMOTHY HAUSER ,
CAROLINE DEKREY , AMY
BRUNEAU, HEATHER
GULDAN, JAYSON
SCHUMANN , CHRISTINE

LEHMAN, KROSBY KLUDT,
BETH NIKOLIC, SHANAN
EDELHEIT, BENJAMIN
TIMKO, MEGAN
SHELLUM, ANGELA RICHTER,
KATHERINE BRYAN, PENNY
CARDA , CHAD GROSBIER ,
KATHERINE WIDESTROM-
LANDGRAF, KARMYN
LARSON , MADDOLYN RITT ,
AUTUMN KIESER , ELIZABETH
GENESER , MARY COLEMAN
, TIMOTHY PETERSON , TROY
ADAMS, ERIC BECKMAN,
SARAH HUDSON, MICHAELA
BORSKI , GINA CARLSON ,
CHRISTINE BEEKMAN ,
MEGAN KIENHOLZ , ALYSSA
DAHLKE , CRAIG
SUNDERMAN , ANTHONY
BIZAL , ASHLEY WORACHEK ,
CLARE RONEY, KARISSA
SAPP, SAMANTHA STENZEL

PELUF, JESSICA VIKANDER

If for some reason you don't see your name, we do apologize. Please email us!

Coming Up

Absentee Ballots can be requested at any time.

- AFL/CIO Convention – Sept. 18 – 20
- Building Rep, Membership Engagement Training Make-up Meeting, Sept. 21, 4:45 p.m.
- **First day to vote early in person: Friday, September 23**
- **Absentee ballots will be mailed to those who requested an absentee ballot, Sept. 23**
- School Board Meeting – Sept. 26, 6:30pm ESC
- Superintendent Focus Group for Teachers– Monday, Sept. 26, 5:00, ESC
- Superintendent Search Community Meetings, CPHS and CRHS
- AHEM Rep. Assembly – Oct 10, 4:45pm
- School Board Work Session- Oct. 10, 5:30pm ESC
- Education Minnesota MEA Conference-, Oct 20 & 21
- AHEM Exec. Board Meeting, Oct. 24, 4:45pm
- School Board Meeting. Oct. 24, 6:30pm ESC



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