

the PULSE

United Steelworkers Local 9460

the Northland's Healthcare Workers' Union



SPRING 2017

Volume 13, Issue 3

www.USW9460.org



**Local 9460 is hosting a free, day long conference on stopping domestic violence, on & off the clock.
All members are welcome!**

**SATURDAY
MAY 20**

11 am TO 3pm

**DULUTH LABOR TEMPLE
HALL A ~ 2002 London Rd.**

A FREE LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICS:

- Domestic violence affects one in four women in Minnesota and Wisconsin.
- Women aged 18-34 have the highest risk of victimization.
- Domestic Violence is the leading cause of injury to women, exceeding muggings, stranger rape and car accidents combined.
- Last year in Minnesota, nearly 70,000 victims received services from domestic violence agencies.
- About 76% of women killed by their current or former partners were stalked before their murder. 67% were also physically abused in the year before their murder.
- About one in five high school girls has been physically or sexually abused by a partner.
- Nearly one third of homeless women in MN are homeless at least in part because of domestic abuse.
- Domestic abuse victims account for one quarter of violent crime victims in Minnesota. An estimated 80% of domestic assaults go unreported.
- Nearly 35% of all Minnesota law enforcement calls are domestic disputes.
- Direct medical services for victims of intimate partner violence in the U.S. costs \$4.1 billion per year.
- According to the U.S. Department of Labor, domestic abuse may have cost Minnesota employers as much as \$3 billion in 2007.



A Message from your President...

**by Stacy Spexet,
President of Local 9460**

In February Midwest Medical Equipment and Supplies ratified their first contract and become member of the Steelworkers and part of 9460. The main office is located at the Airport Park, they are a part of Essentia Health with approximately 50 employees. The work with patients in need of durable medical equipment, prosthetics, medical supplies and orthotics.

They elected Steve Plasa as Unit President and the Stewards are:

-Juanita Truax
-Sue Wagner-Thomas
-Melissa Johnson
-Misty Degeler

We had Steward Training on April 26th so in addition to those above others that attend and are now union Stewards:

-Christina Derick, LSCHC
-Melodee Meyers, Greenbook
-Ashley Goble, Redbook
-Charlene Snedker, Greenbook

Thank you for stepping up to represent your coworkers!

We are getting started on negotiations for the Redbook, St. Luke's Technical Unit and Chequamegon Clinic. Thank you to everyone that took the time to fill out the surveys and send them in. They are a big help in guiding the committee. We will be doing a wage re-opener as well for the Greenbook.

The Healthcare Workers Council has a weekly e-newsletter they send out updating subscribers on healthcare worker issues throughout the US and Canada. The highlight issues throughout the districts related to negotiations or legislation. If you are



interested please submit your name along with your email address to us at uswlocal9460@gmail.com and we will forward your information for a subscription.

Meet Our New Hibbing Unit Chair!

I thought I would take a moment to introduce myself, my name is Kathy Wauzynski and I am taking over the unit chair position at Hibbing Clinic. I was appointed in January to replace Sue Pierce. I'm a Medical Lab Technician at the Hibbing Clinic and have worked there for 19 years. I have three daughters that are all grown up, which is part of the reason I decided to take this position. I like to stay busy and look forward to the challenge of this new endeavor.



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Officers:

-Stacy Spexet, *President*
-vacant, *Vice President*
-Heidi Puhl, *Recording Secretary*
-Sue Pierce, *Financial Secretary*
-Brenda Simon, *Treasurer*
-Lynn Wedlund, *Guide*
-Kelli Ritz, *Inner Guard*
-Cheryl Virta, *Outer Guard*
-Kathy Campbell, *Trustee*
-Julie Pakingham, *Trustee*
-Adam Ritscher, *Trustee*

Unit Presidents:

-vacant, *Essentia Green Book*
-Kathy Wauzynski, *Essentia Hibbing/Chisholm*
-Lynn Wedlund, *Essentia Ashland*
-Lana Hiltbrunner, *Essentia Ely/Babbitt*
-Stacy Spexet, *Essentia Spooner*
-Heidi Puhl, *Ecumen Lakeshore*
-Jay Gault, *Pine Medical Center*
-Deanna Glinski, *Essentia Hayward*
-Steve Maida, *Essentia Red Book*
-Angie Carnahan, *Chequamegon Clinic*
-Kathy Campbell, *St. Luke's Tech Unit*
-Stacy Spexet, *former SMUMS*
-Stacy Spexet, *Itasca Hospice*
-Niki Collard, *LSCHC Support Staff*
-Louise Curnow, *LSCHC Professional Unit*
-Steve Plasa, *Midwest Medical Equipment & Supplies*

9460 Pulse Editor:

-Adam Ritscher

Articles, photos or letters may be submitted to the editor at adamritscher@gmail.com or to the USW Local 9460 Office.

REMEMBERING CHARLES KERNAGHAN

CHAMPION OF WORKERS AROUND THE WORLD



by Sue Pierce

He stands off beside the stage, wearing a suit and tie, neatly trimmed beard, mostly gray hair, and wire rimmed glasses. The muscles of his face are tight and he is about to pounce--launch into his speech. He is Charlie Kernaghan the executive director of the Institute for Global Labour and Human Rights. Charlie Kernaghan starts to explain: "This is a picture of a kid from Bangladesh who's sewn stuff for Disney" and then he shouts---"SHE MAKES 17 CENTS AN HOUR. DO THE MATH!" The audience is now alert, awake, he HAS their attention. He continues to show photographs and tell stories of the sweatshops, appalling living and working conditions of the impoverished workers around the world. That is what Charles Kenaghan is all about.

Charles was born in 1948 in Brooklyn, New York, one of three children. His mother was Czech and his father Scottish. He obtained a B.A. degree in 1970 from Lemoyne College in Syracuse, N.Y. Charlie worked as a car-

penter (got a carpenters' union card, one day installed a phone in a black glass-and-marble bathroom that had a special magazine rack by the toilet. He installed the phone upside down and the whole smoked glass wall had to be trashed, made \$47,000 in six months and quit). He once drove a taxi (sometimes he'd get rough passengers at night, see them pull a gun to rob him, but he remained calm, he'd pull a hatchet out from under his seat and set it on the dashboard). These various jobs was not what Charlie was all about--he didn't know it then, but he was destined to help the workers of the world. He hated the greedy and corrupt world of big business who took advantage of workers all over the world. He dedicated his life to fight for these workers in Bangladesh, Honduras, El Salvador, Viet Nam, and New York City, to name a few.

In 1996 Charlie gave testimony at a congressional hearing that child laborers in Honduras and New York City were making clothing lines under the names of Kathie Lee Gifford and other

celebrities. He became mildly famous as the man who made Gifford cry on national TV when he called her out that her clothing line was made by Third World kids for pennies an hour and she took home about \$9 million a year for loaning out her name. Gifford responded that she was a celebrity endorser and had nothing to do with the management of the manufacturing plants. Again he called her out when he directed the media to a sweatshop making her clothing line about a mile from her ABC studio. The coverage of these investigations was so widespread that media referred it as "the summer of the sweatshop". Many companies were targeted and conditions improved in some areas.

Charlie Kernaghan has given testimonies not only to the U.S. Congress but to the United Nations as well. He has travelled to Central America, India, Jordan, Bangladesh, China and other developing countries. He has spoken to thousands of workers and put him (continued on pg. 4)

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR UNION

**Be sure to attend your monthly
membership meetings!**

**Every 3rd
Tuesday**

**Duluth Labor Temple
USW Office, Suite 202
@ 5:30 P.M.**



CHARLES KERNAGHAN (continued)

self in grave danger in these countries, posing as prospective businessmen, seeking to build or start plants or factories. In the hopes of exposing the truth regarding the living and working conditions of these workers.

I first heard Charlie Kernaghan speak at a union conference in Pittsburgh about 15 years ago. I was upset, angry, sad. I could not believe the stories, the photos, and the conditions of the workers in these countries. I was proud that the Steelworkers were standing up and helping Charlie in his efforts to stop the multinational companies including Walmart, Nike, Disney, GAP, Alcoa, Victoria's Secret, Major League Baseball, the NBA, NFL, Target, Kmart, and many others from taking advantage of the workers in these countries. Our local has made donations to the Labour Institute over

the last several years. This April, at the International Convention in Las Vegas our delegation was invited to a farewell---a farewell to Charlie Kernaghan and his companion Barbara Briggs (whom he met in 1986 and they became partners in his efforts to help workers). Charlie is retiring. The Institute will be dissolved but we were assured that Charlie and Barb's work and efforts to improve these workers will continue. Surely not with the determination, passion and devotion that Charles Kernaghan had---because no one can equal that---but these workers will not be forgotten. The Steelworkers will not let that happen---we are a Union full of compassion, hope and UNITY!!!!

Thank you Charles Kernaghan and Barbara Briggs for all that you have done!

REPORT on the 2017 USW CONVENTION April 10-13, Las Vegas

THE POWER OF UNITY DEFINES US!

The first day of the convention was opened by our International President Leo Gerard with a tribute to the USW's 75 years of fighting for workers. The USW is a diverse union with members in the United States, Canada and the Caribbean. Gerard said the union faces challenges in fighting to maintain jobs, supporting middle class wages and benefits, and fighting against corporate greed. He urged union members to run for office at every level of government in the countries they reside in, and that the USW is there to help on all levels.

Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez was the next speaker. He said his mission is to advance the middle-class agenda. He is inspired by the USW values of unity and commitment to fight for workers' rights. Perez said he understands that we are a divided nation, and the Democratic Party needs to earn our trust.

USW Secretary-Treasurer, Stan Johnson, reminded delegates that their primary responsibility during the convention is to debate and pass resolutions that will define the union's policies and guide its actions. Following that, the delegates debated numerous resolutions.

At the close of day one, the attendees were inspired by Reverend Dr. William Barber II, a Protestant minister and President of the North Carolina NAACP. His message was one of unity. "We must stop making issues Democratic or Republican; these are moral issues, not political issues. We must have a strong, steadfast unity among labor, religious, civil rights, environmental and other organizations in order to beat back the national immorality of hard-right politicians," Barber said. (continued on page 5)

Questions about your Steelworkers Pension?

Pensions and Benefits

60 Boulevard of the Allies

Pittsburg, PA 15222

1 (800) 848-1953 ~ (412) 562-2275 fax



Day 2 had a focus of international solidarity, and featured speakers from other union in the United States, the UK and Mexico. Tony Burke, Assistant General Secretary of the UNITE union in the UK and the Republic of Ireland, stated, "We are a global union for men and women, for young people and retired people, for people of color, for those with disabilities and for LGBT workers." Burke met with USW represented healthcare workers and said his union is committed to making sure it builds a strong relationship with the healthcare sector.

Day 3 was devoted to supporting resolutions. Debate was held on resolutions brought forward on the Women of Steel, Civil and Human Rights, Collective Bargaining and International Trade. Resolution No. 23 was one of the resolutions that passed that our union was backing. It commits the USW to strengthening a structured, active and member driven Healthcare Workers Council. As a result of the passing of this resolution, the USW will now hold a Healthcare Sector Conference at least once every three years with a focus on education, bargaining trends, communication and legislative issues.

This convention was extremely well organized, professional produced and it inspired our delegates with **THE POWER OF UNITY!**

YOUR UNION STEWARDS:

Essentia Health Greenbook:

Renee Rautell
Cheryl Virta
Jennie Shovein
Cindy Anstett
Laura Vu
Roxane Boutin
Evelyn Dax
Brenda Simon
Jackie Leibel
Donna Mickelson
Jodi Andersen
Tim Visina
Darla Woodall
Adam Ritscher
Sheri Mattson
Melodee Meyers
Charlene Snedker
Micki Olson

Essentia Health Bluebook:

Lindajeane Thompson

Kim Morton

Essentia Health Redbook:

Greg Gowan
Teresa Vigliaturo
Alyce Lenzen
Ben Anderson
Jennifer Horst
Tuan Vu
Tracy Averill
Krist Whelan
Aaron Allen
Ashley Goble
Ryan Reuter

Essentia Health Hibbing:

Phyllis Chupurdia
Kelli Ritz
Audry Chamberlin
Cindy Mihelich
Carol Johnson
Shelly Brownlee

Essentia Health Ashland:

Lynne Johnson
Lori Skaj

LSCHC Support Staff:

Brenda Robinson
Shelly DeGraef
Christina Derick

LSCHC Professional Unit:

Penny Waldum
Kaitlin Thompson
Lane O'Connell

Chequamegon Clinic:

Elizabeth Zwetow

Essentia Health Spooner:

Margaret Olsgard
Tracy Osterhues

Essentia Health Hayward:

Penny Gustafson

St. Luke's Hospital Tech Unit:

Scott Guenard

Midwest Medical:

Juanita Truax
Sue Wagner-Thomas
Melissa Johnson

United Steelworkers Local 9460 ~ the Northland's healthcare workers union***the Pulse***

The newsletter of United Steelworkers Local 9460

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**WORKING CLASS HEROS: Mother Jones**

Mother Jones worked tirelessly for economic justice. Her opponents called her the "most dangerous woman in America," for her success in organizing miners and their families against wealthy mine owners.

Born in 1830, her family fled the devastation of the Irish Potato Famine and emigrated to America. Jones worked as a teacher and dressmaker, but after her husband and four children all died of [yellow fever](#) in 1867 and her dress shop was destroyed in the [Great Chicago Fire](#) of 1871, she began working as a union organizer.

An example of campaigns she organized was the Children's March of 1903. To protest child labor in the Pennsylvania mines and silk mills, she organized a children's march from Philadelphia to the home of Pres. [Theodore Roosevelt](#) in New York. Campaigns like this made her the hated enemy of the greedy robber barons of her time.

Jones combined dynamic speaking skills and radical organizing methods to mobilize thousands of working-class families. She said of herself, "I'm not a humanitarian, I'm a hell-raiser." Her most famous saying, still said at workers' funerals the world over, was "don't mourn, organize!" We owe much to working class heroes like Mother Jones.

