

the PULSE

United Steelworkers Local 9460

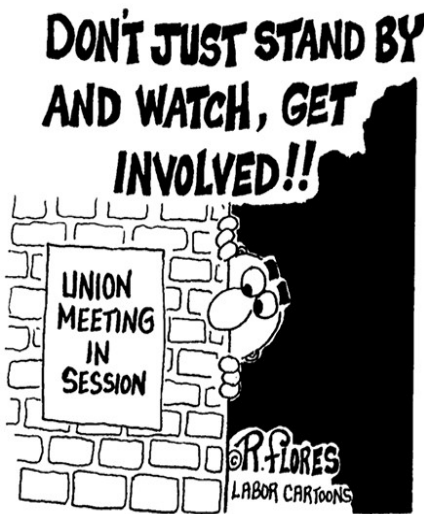
the Northland's Healthcare Workers' Union



Winter 2018

www.USW9460.org

UNION OFFICER ELECTIONS THIS SPRING



NOMINATION NOTICE – United Steelworkers District 11 Local 9460 Nominations for the offices of President, Vice President, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Guide, Guard (Inner), Guard (Outer), three trustees, Unit President, Unit Secretary and Stewards will be accepted from the floor during each of the following membership meetings at the seven locations listed below. No quorum will be necessary at these meetings. Nominations will not re-

quire a second and self-nominations will be permitted. The term of office will run for three years beginning May 15, 2018.

As provided in the USW Elections Manual, any member who has paid their initiation and is in good standing at the time of nominations is eligible to nominate candidates. To be eligible for office, a member must have been in continuous good standing for a period of twenty-four months immediately preceding the month in which the election is held (April 2018). Any member nominated but not present at the nomination meeting will be contacted as soon as possible. Any member nominated must accept or decline the nomination in person at the nomination meeting or at such time as contacted by the Local. The election will be conducted on April 5, 2018. Additional information regarding the election will be provided in a separate notice which will be mailed to all Local 9460 members at a later date.

NOMINATIONS MEETINGS

SPOONER:

Monday, March 19 @ 5:30pm
Essentia Health Spooner Clinic Break Room (1180 Chandler Drive)

SANDSTONE:

Monday, March 19 @ 1 & 4pm
Pine Medical Center Classroom (705 Lundorff Drive)

ASHLAND:

Monday, March 19 @ 5:15pm
Essentia Health Ashland Clinic Woodland Room (1615 Maple Ln STE 1)

ELY:

Monday, March 19 @ 5pm
Ely Steakhouse (216 E. Sheridan St.)

HIBBING:

Monday, March 19 @ 6pm
Essentia Health Hibbing Clinic Community Room (730 E. 34th St.)

HAYWARD:

Monday, March 19 @ 5:05pm
Essentia Health Hayward Community Room (11134 N. State Rd. 77)

DULUTH:

Tues., March 20 @ 1pm, 6pm & 9pm
Duluth Labor Temple Suite 202 (2002 London Rd.)



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Officers:

-Stacy Spexet, *President*
-Adam Ritscher *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*
-Jackie Liebel, *Trustee*

Unit Presidents:

-Brenda Simon, *EH Green Book*
-Kathy Wauzynski, *EH Hibbing/Chisholm*
-Lynn Wedlund, *EH Ashland*
-Lana Hiltbrunner, *EH Ely/Babbitt*
-Stacy Spexet, *EH Spooner*
-Heidi Puhl, *Ecumen Lakeshore*
-Jay Gault, *Pine Medical Center*
-Deanna Glinski, *EH Hayward*
-Steve Maida, *EH 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*

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.

Coordinators Appointed for National Healthcare Workers Council



The Health Care Workers Council is expanding its reach, with newly appointed health care coordinators now serving as the steering committee. These coordinators will facilitate communication between health care locals in their districts, including regular calls with local union presidents.

Appointed by their district directors, coordinators will also help set the agenda for the Health Care Workers Conference, which will take place April 23-25. There are currently twelve members serving as coordinators:

District 1: Tim O'Daniel is president of Local 1014L, which represents 850 clerical, technical and support staff at Cleveland Clinic Akron General in Akron, Ohio. He's been at the medical center for 37 years and a full-time union officer since 1995.

District 2: Jackie Anklam is president of Local 9899 in Saginaw, Mich. Local 9899 represents workers at St. Mary's Hospital and Touch Point Support Services. An environmental services technician, Jackie has been with the hospital 22 years.

District 3: Ray White is president of Local 1-207, a large and diverse local that encompasses nearly the entire province of Alberta. Based in Edmonton, Alberta, Ray's local represents health care workers at South Country Village, the Good Samaritan Society, River Ridge Seniors Village, Salem Manor, Citadel Care Centre, Calgary Society for Persons with Disabilities, Vegreville Association for Living in Dignity, Youville Home, and Rivercrest Care Centre.

District 4: Judy Danella is president of local 4-200 in New Brunswick, N.J. She has been a registered nurse at Robert Wood Johnson Barnabas Health for 23 years.

District 6: Audra Nixon is a member of Local 9211 in Maxville, Ontario. She's worked some 30 years at Maxville Manor, a long-term care facility. She is a trustee on her local executive board and also serves as president of the District 6 Health Care Council, a position she's held the past four years.

District 7: Nicole Greene serves as financial secretary of local 1014 in Gary, Ind. She works as a full-time officer at U.S. Steel's Gary Works and has been a steelworker for 17 years.

District 8: Danny Coghill is vice president of Local 14637 in Hazard, Ky., which represents health care workers at Hazard Appalachian Regional Medical Center. He's been a union member for more than 27 years.

District 10: Debbie Yakscoe is a full-time grievance committee member for West Point, PA based local 10-00086, which represents workers at Merck, Sharpe and Dohme, Inc. Debbie also serves as the worker's compensation [cont. on pg. 3]

Coordinators (cont.)

committee co-chair and is an at-large member of the local's executive board.

Cheryl Ream is unit chair of Local 1940 in Lewistown, Pa. Local 1940 represents some 150 members at Geisinger Lewistown Hospital. She's worked as a radiographer and mammographer for 25 years.

District 11: Heather Hill is a grievance officer, union steward and trustee for Local 9349 in Hibbing, Minn. She works as a lead licensed practical nurse at Fairview Range Mesaba Clinics, where she's worked for nearly 13 years.

Louise Curnow is a physician assistant practicing at Lake Superior Community Health Center in Duluth, Minn., who serves as unit chair for the professional unit of Local 9460. A staunch believer that health care is a human right, Louise has been a physician assistant – certified (PA-C) for more than 25 years, working primarily in family practice.

District 12: Alma Garzon is president of Local 183 in Apple Valley, Calif., where she's been an ED Financial Counselor for 17 years. Local 183 represents some 750 workers at St. Mary Medical Center.

Healthcare Workers Council Holds 1st Coordinators Meeting *by Louise Curnow*

December 6 and 7, 2017 saw the first meeting of the Health Care Workers Council (HCWC) coordinators meeting in Pittsburgh, PA. Each of the 13 Districts of the USW chose coordinators to represent their districts in order to begin forming the guiding organization for the HCWC. The health care workers sector of the USW has grown 7% since 2010 and currently has nearly 50,000 members across the US and Canada. Those 50,000 members belong to literally hundreds of different job classifications in the health care industry, making the HCWC one of the most diverse sectors of the USW. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, healthcare created more jobs than any other sector of the US labor market in 2016, helping to drive total annual job growth to 2.2 million. The USW began representing health care workers as far back as 1969 and as this industry continues to grow so will the HCWC.

Heather Hill, LPN at Fairview, Hibbing and Louise Curnow, PA-C, Lake Superior Community Health Center, Duluth represented District 11 and were accompanied by Cathy Drummond, District 11 Staff Representative. Much of the meeting involved understanding the scope of our organization, developing a mission statement, developing goals/plans for moving our organization forward and starting the planning process for the HCWC international meeting in the spring of this year (either the end of April or early May.) The tasks of the coordinators steering committee are vast but the goals and concerns of the group members were surprisingly similar: to voice concerns of HCWC members to the USW, to help organize and empower districts and locals to improve working conditions and secure safe staffing for workers and patients and to help organize more health care workers. We developed a mission statement for our coordinating group: To Engage and Unify USW Health Care Workers.

Two of the initial goals of the group are to create a more unified network of the HCWC local presidents across the Districts and to promote access to STAT Facts among HCWC members. STAT Facts is the weekly, electronic newsletter of the USW Health Care Workers Council. It offers news, events and information affecting health care workers throughout the sector. A member can receive the newsletter through email, text or joining the USW Healthcare Workers on Facebook. The healthcare industry continues to expand and with the increased pressure to do more in less time, healthcare workers are being pushed into unsafe situations for both the worker and the patient. As members of the Health Care Workers Council we represent varied sectors of the health care industry. We take pride in our work and stand true to the integrity of our professions. We must encourage others in healthcare to join us in our cause.

Do you have questions
about your Steelworkers
Pension? Contact:

Pensions & Benefits

60 Boulevard of the Allies
Pittsburg, PA 15222
1 (800) 848-1953
(412) 562-2275 fax

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR UNION

Be sure to attend your monthly membership meetings!

Every 3rd Tuesday

@ 5:30pm

**Duluth Labor Temple,
USW Office, Suite 202**

Meet Your Union Stewards!

Melissa Johnson Essentia Health Medical Equipment & Supply



My name is Melissa Johnson. I have been a Customer Service Representative at Essentia Health Medical Equipment and Supplies for over a year. I became a Steward for the Gray Book when the company joined the Union. I am married with a daughter, a son, and two step sons. Quality time with family and friends is valuable time that I treasure. Being outdoors is enjoyable for me, especially when spent with those I care about. My hobbies include hiking, fishing, and wood-working. Feel free to contact me via phone call or text at [\(715\) 817-0688](tel:7158170688).

Juanita Truax Essentia Health Medical Equipment & Supply



Juanita Truax is a Respiratory Therapist working at the Respiratory Department of Essentia Health Medical Equipment and Supply since 2014. The goal that drove her to become a union steward was to actively participate in the bilateral communication environment where workers and management have the same value and can have their voices heard with respect under the understanding of improving working conditions for everyone. Juanita was born and raised in Santiago of Chile, and is the second of four children of Violeta, a teacher, and Oscar, a poet/radio host/political campaign manager. She has four children; three in Chile and one in San Francisco. She is married to Mike, and in her free time loves to do photography, watercolor painting and learning different computer software. The best way to contact her is by texting her at (218) 830-9374. The second best way is by sending an email to her at union9460email@yahoo.com.

Lana Hiltbrunner Essentia Health Ely Clinic

My name is Lana Hiltbrunner. I am a union steward and the unit president at the Ely Clinic. I work as an LPN, and have been a nurse at the Clinic since 2008. This January will mark 10 years since I moved here from Des Moines, Iowa with my husband Mike. Mike is a retired firefighter. After we moved here we built a house on White Iron Lake, just outside of Ely. In my free time, I enjoy snowmobiling, pontooning, walking, reading and spending time with my two dogs, Blaze and Riley.

Lane O'Connell Lake Superior Community Health Center



I have been working at the Lake Superior Community Health Center for 12 years as an RN. I work with a wide variety of patients and provide support to the providers at our clinic. I love that every day is different and I respect and enjoy working with our amazing providers. My husband is a CRNA and we have 3 children. Two of our children are nurses and our youngest is in college studying to be an occupational therapist. I love being outdoors, time at the cabin, cooking, and hanging out with family and friends. My email is: russell957@mchsi.com.

Alyce Lenzen Essentia Health Radiology Department

My name is Alyce Lenzen and I have been a USW Union steward for over 10 years. I currently work in the Radiology Department at Essentia Health St. Marys Superior. I have been a Radiologic Technologist for over 30 years. You may contact me at: [715 398-7787](tel:7153987787), [715 817-7600](tel:7158177600), alenzen47@icloud.com,

Meet Your Union Stewards!

Heather Smith Essentia Health Medical Equipment & Supplies



My name is Heather Smith, and I currently am a Union Steward with Local 9460 for Essentia Health Medical Equipment and Supplies. We ratified our first contract after a year and a half of negotiations and although we have locations in Virginia, Fargo, and Duluth, Duluth is the only location with a union contract.

I was hired with EHMEs in March of 2013 in Customer Service where I had spent one year at our Haines Road location and less than one year at our Retail location across from the St Mary's Hospital. In October of 2015, I transferred to Essentia Health Business Service Center where I worked as an Outbound Patient Account Representative until December 2016. I then transferred back to EHMEs as a DMEPOS Medicaid Biller where I currently work today.

I have two beautiful daughters, Carli and Leah. Carli is seven years old and in first grade. She is my wild child and loves to keep me on my toes! Leah is ten months old and is currently trying to walk and talk. My girls are my world, and I don't know what I would do without being a mom first and foremost. I enjoy being out in nature and spending time at our hunting shack with my boyfriend Derek and

the rest of the family. Snowmobiling, four wheeling, hunting, fishing, these are all some of my favorite things to do living in Minnesota.

This is my first position with a union, and I support the union as I know how it feels to work for a company that does not treat each employee with respect, honor, and gratitude individually. My hope for EHMEs and the USW union is to maintain an honest and helpful relationship and to ensure that each employee feels like they have a meaning.

Ashley Goble Essentia Health Inpatient Pharmacy



My name is Ashley Goble. I am a certified pharmacy tech/lead technician and TCT (technician-check-technician) at St. Mary's Inpatient Pharmacy, where I have worked for the last 12 years. I am the first union steward to come from the pharmacy department.

I became a steward in April of 2017. In this short amount of time I have already learned a lot and have gotten to experience many things. I am

looking forward to what 2018 will bring!

In my free time I am spending it with my husband Lucas, and two girls Kylie (9) and Kendall (5). My contact information is Ashgoble@gmail.com and (218) 310-8751.

Louise Carnow Lake Superior Community Health Center



Hi, my name is Louise Carnow and I am a physician assistant practicing at the Lake Superior Community Health Center where I serve as unit chair for the professional unit of USW Health Care Workers. I have been a physician assistant - certified (PA-C) for over 25 years, working primarily in family practice. I received my PA degree from the Univ. of Iowa in 1992. Prior to that I received a degree in biology from the CSS. I'm originally from Cherry, MN - a graduate of Cherry High School. (Go Tigers!) I am married (also for over 25 years) and have twin sons. I am a staunch advocate for a single payer health care system (medicare for all) and in the belief that health care is a right of all people.

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

The newsletter of United Steelworkers Local 9460

**Labor Temple
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2002 London Road
Duluth, MN 55812**



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**WORKING CLASS HEROS: the Willmar 8**

The Willmar 8 were eight female employees of the Citizens National Bank in Willmar, Minnesota who went on strike on December 16, 1977 over charges of sex discrimination. It was the first bank strike in U.S. history.

The tellers and bookkeepers were protesting unequal pay and unequal opportunities for advancement. The women were Doris Boshart, Irene Wallin, Sylvia Erickson Koll, Jane Harguth Groothuis, Sandi Treml, Teren Novotny, Shirley Solyntjes, and Glennis Ter Wisscha. They set up a picket line outside the bank when the wind chill was -70°F.

Although the Willmar 8 didn't win their strike, they became enduring symbols in the struggle for women's rights and for social and economic justice.

