



Retiree Bulletin

Minnesota AFL-CIO Retiree Council

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2016

***When the nurses' inspiration through the workers' blood shall run,
There can be no power greater anywhere beneath the sun.***

All of us are in the nurses' debt for the courageous stand they made to affirm the dignity of work and of workers.

May those MNA sisters' and brothers' grit and solidarity inspire all of us to act with them to break the haughty power of corporate elites and bring to birth a new world of good, affordable health care for all, justice and a voice on the job for working people and a secure, dignified retirement for everyone.

What can we do, practically? Between now and election day, the most useful action we can take is to volunteer with Minnesota Labor 2016 to help keep a working family majority in the Minnesota State Senate, regain a labor friendly majority in the State House of Representatives and elect Minnesota AFL-CIO endorsed candidates to the Congress and Presidency of the United States.

Retired AFSCME Political Director Rick Scott says people vote for two reasons: 1) Because they believe in a cause or candidate, and 2) Because somebody asked them. Asking: That's why we have conversations with union voters, on the doorstep and on the phone. And every area labor council and regional labor federation has a phoning list or door-knock "turf" ready for you – if you show up.

Check the list on page 2 for Get Out The Vote action centers and work shifts and sign up on line at www.dfl.org/gotv or call Bethany Winkels at 320 296 5853.

As long as we're this side of the grave, we can't say, for sure, this is the most important election in our lives. But, right now, it's the only one that matters.

The nurses' inspiration runs through our blood. Its power is ours to use or lose.

In Solidarity,

Bill Moore

President

MN Labor 2016 GOTV Action Centers

Labor GOTV efforts are folding into DFL GOTV efforts starting Thursday Nov. 3.
Please volunteer at one of these locations, if at all possible.

Priority Action Centers	<u>Secondary Priority Action Centers</u>
Apple Valley – 7300 147th St W, Ste 100 Bemidji – 401 Beltrami Ave. NW Coon Rapids – 552 Northdale Blvd. Cottage Grove – 8839 96th St. S. Faribault – 212A Central Ave. Grand Rapids – 809 NE 4th St. Minnetonka SD44/48 – 14525 Hwy 7, Ste 345 Northfield – 204 S Water St., Stes. 10&11 Red Wing – 316 Plum St. Rochester – 1500 1st Ave. NE Shoreview – 3460 Lexington Ave. N. St. Cloud – 11 7th Ave. N., Ste. 100 Willmar – 130 SE Willmar Ave.	If you can't make it to a priority center, please volunteer at one of these. Brainerd – 700 Front St. Cambridge – 150 N. Birch St., Ste. 180 Duluth – 2002 London Rd. Hibbing – 503 E. 16th St. #1 Mountain Iron – 8400 Unity Drive

2016 GOTV Work Shifts

Sign up for shifts at www.dfl.org/gotv OR call Bethany Winkels, 320-296-5853

Door Knocks -- #1 Priority	Phone Banks -- #2 priority
Thursday Nov. 3 • 2:00 p.m. • 5:00 p.m.	Thursday Nov. 3 • 9:00 a.m. • 3:00 p.m. • 12:00 noon • 6:00 p.m.
Friday Nov. 4 • 11:00 a.m. • 2:00 p.m. • 5:00 p.m.	
Saturday Nov. 5 • 9:00 a.m. • 3:00 p.m. • 12:00 noon • 6:00 p.m.	
Sunday Nov. 6 • 9:00 a.m. • 3:00 p.m. • 12:00 noon • 6:00 p.m.	
Monday Nov. 7 • 9:00 a.m. • 3:00 p.m. • 12:00 noon • 6:00 p.m.	
Tuesday Nov. 8, Election Day! • 8:00 a.m. • 2:00 p.m. • 11:00 a.m. • 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday Nov. 8, Election Day! • 8:00 a.m. • 2:00 p.m. • 11:00 a.m. • 5:00 p.m.

“NO EXCUSE” ABSENTEE VOTING

THE TIME IS NOW!!! You can visit an early voting location in your community, cast your ballot, and run it through the scanner to ensure that it's correct; or request an absentee ballot be mailed to you and cast your absentee ballot by mail from the comfort of your home.

Minnesota Law changed as of 2014 to permit absentee voting without requiring any reason as well as early voting. Under prior laws, a person had to be absent from their precinct on election day (or meet certain other criterion) to obtain an absentee ballot, but that is no longer necessary.

Absentee ballots are available for the general election on November 8. Go on-line to (<http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting>) and you can get an absentee ballot mailed to you. At the website, click on **other ways to vote**, then on **vote early by mail** or **vote early in person**.

To vote absentee, you click **vote early by mail**, then go to the on-line application. You submit that application, and a ballot will be mailed to you. It is important to follow the directions for submitting the absentee ballot carefully, for you want it to be counted. But it's not rocket science!

For early voting in person, click **vote early in person**. There is a choice to click **county** or **cities and towns**. **Cities and towns** gives you a list of counties where you click on your county and then get a list of cities and towns with early voting locations. There are cities and towns with early voting all over the state, not just in the metro area.

NATIONAL LABOR EFFORT

The AFL-CIO plans to amass 100,000 volunteer hours knocking on 1 million doors in key battleground states in the two weeks just before the election, according to *Workday Minnesota*.

“The GOTV efforts of local labor movements in the home stretch will propel working people towards election day,” said AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka.

The push is to get union members and their families to the polls to vote for the national and state candidates who will deliver worker-friendly legislation like higher minimum wage laws, paid family leave and stronger worker rights.

Those candidates include Hillary Clinton for President and pro-worker candidates for Congress, state legislature and local governments. In addition to knocking on doors, volunteers will phone bank and do work-site leafleting.

Be part of it! Sign up for GOTV (page 2)!



YOUTUBE OFFERINGS

The Retiree Council produces short video segments that appear on YouTube. The most current segments feature Machinist Union members talking about the Trans Pacific Partnership.

Available YouTube Segments featuring MN Sec. of State Steve Simon that are so important to the upcoming election:

- “No Excuse Absentee Voting”
- “Early Voting in Minnesota” “Online Voting Registration”
- “Election Day Voting Registration”
- “Promoting Minnesota Voter Participation”
- “Our Vote Is Our Voice” “
- “The Next Generation of Voting Officials”

Produced by the MN State Retiree Council, AFL-CIO/Rodney Anderson and Dan Mikel

<h2>Retiree Issue</h2>	 Hillary Clinton	 Donald Trump
<p>Expand and Protect Social Security</p> <p>Increase the average monthly benefits for seniors, strengthen the Social Security Trust Fund by lifting the Social Security payroll tax cap, making millionaires and billionaires pay their fair share.</p> <p><small>(The Fiscal Times, July 27, 2016: http://ow.ly/Eudr303Cnig)</small></p>	<p>Supports</p>	<p>Opposes</p>
<p>Defend Health Care for Seniors</p> <p>Allow seniors to continue to receive free, annual wellness checks, lifesaving cancer screenings and other preventive treatments through Medicare.</p> <p><small>(Forbes, July 29, 2016: http://ow.ly/5XE0303CnBV)</small></p>	<p>Supports</p>	<p>Opposes</p>
<p>Lower Prescription Drug Costs</p> <p>Close the large doughnut hole in prescription drug coverage costing seniors billions and cap what insurers can charge consumers in out-of-pocket costs.</p> <p><small>(Forbes, August 12, 2016: http://ow.ly/HJZu303CnVD)</small></p>	<p>Supports</p>	<p>Opposes</p>



Vote 2016

Protect Your Vote

Thirty states have enacted Voter ID laws that restrict access to the polls and will make it harder for many seniors to vote. As many as 21 million voters are at risk of not having their vote counted.

Know your rights. Be on the lookout for misinformation that tries to prevent you from casting your ballot. Be wary of flyers or robocalls giving false information to voters about the time, place and manner of elections, political affiliation of candidates, or penalties associated with voting.

If you have a problem casting your ballot or suspect a voting rights problem, **ask to speak with the chief election official or a voting rights volunteer at the polls and call the voting rights hotline.**

1-866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)
1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (en español)
1-888-API-VOTE (Asian multilingual assistance)

or visit the website:
<https://www.usvotefoundation.org>

**Know Your Rights! You have the right to vote - it's the law.
On November 8, go to the polls!**

WWW.RETIREDAMERICANS.ORG

“WE ALL DO BETTER WHEN WE ALL DO BETTER”

By Dan Mikel

The late Senator Paul Wellstone is usually credited with saying **WE ALL DO BETTER WHEN WE ALL DO BETTER**. He was right.

The Minnesota State Retiree Council, in conjunction with Minnesota AFL-CIO, has been focused on significant state issues as we have contacted voters in targeted state legislative districts.

What do we expect from our elected state officials? We expect their support for our important issues. If they are there for us on issues, we will support them as candidates. As indicated in the 2016 Minnesota AFL-CIO Legislative Report, we have some very specific issues.

Transportation funding. Minnesota’s seniors need transportation options in order to live independently as long as we can. We need safe roads and bridges as well as good public transportation.

Paid Family Leave. Paid time off is not just for taking care of babies or young children. Working people sometimes need paid family leave to be with senior family members as we deal with the infirmities and indignities of aging.

Education. Our formal education probably ended long ago, as well as our children’s. But we do have grandchildren and great-grandchildren in school. Early childhood education is necessary today and we also need to invest in infrastructure so that all students – no matter where they live – have high quality programs, teachers and learning environments.

Bonding. The State needs to invest in its infrastructure. Besides roads and bridges, we need to make higher education buildings more energy efficient. Building projects create thousands of good-paying jobs.

That’s thousands of people pouring more money into the economy and into our own Social Security and Medicare programs!

Unemployment Benefits. Minnesota’s unemployment insurance program is very flexible. Last year the Legislature saved businesses more than \$800 million in reduced taxes. We oppose any attempts to “spend down” the Unemployment Insurance trust fund which could jeopardize a critical safety net for unemployed workers. We do not want to “turn back the clock” and step on the backs of today’s workers and their families.

Taxes. Paying taxes is not anyone’s idea of having fun, but retirees know from experience that we need to keep revenues strong to continue improving Minnesota’s economy. Cutting taxes risks our ability to continue funding the priorities identified in this article. Why risk the ability to maintain a decent standard of living for Minnesotans now or in the future? **We all do better when we all do better.**

We have plenty of state-related issues. We have identified and endorsed candidates who support these issues and others important to retirees, such as pension security. We have made telephone calls, knocked on doors and even written post cards in behalf of these candidates.

Now it’s up to each and every one of us. We need to vote. The world belongs to those who show up. We need to show up at the polls. You don’t have to wait until November 8. You can do that right now. We will all do better.

P.S. While we have been focused on state issues and state candidates in Minnesota, the media has been focused on the presidential candidates. There are lots of good, solid, positive reasons to support Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine. For starters, try googling **112 reasons for supporting Hillary** and you’ll find some informative reading.

2016 CONVENTION REPORT

The Twentieth Annual Convention of the Minnesota State AFL-CIO Retiree Council was held Sunday, September 25, 2016 in Duluth, Minnesota.

Among items covered during the day were the following:

An address by Attorney General Lori Swanson reviewing some current activities of her office and emphasizing the importance of this year's elections.

Greetings from MN AFL-CIO President Bill McCarthy and Secretary Treasurer Julie Blaha.

Presentation of awards to the following people:

George Colby Award to President Emeritus of the MN AFL-CIO **Shar Knutson** for her understanding of the importance of keeping retirees engaged in the labor movement and consistently strong support of retiree education, agitation and organizing.

Bernard Brommer Retiree Council Award to **Judie Atkins**, AFSCME retiree and President of the AFSCME Retirees United Chapter 5 East Metro Subchapter and Secretary of the St. Croix Valley AFL-CIO Retirees.

President's Leadership Award to **Buddy Robinson**, Director of the Northeast Minnesota Citizen's Federation who guided the Council in developing the 2016 educational program on Social Security and Medicare.

Bob Bonacorda Community Service Award to **Tom Hoppenstedt**, Machinist retiree who is involved in many community and retiree activities.

Tom Dwyer Political Service Award to AFSCME retiree **Katie Farber**, a long-time top-notch political activist in AFSCME, AFL-CIO and the Minnesota DFL.

Martha Johnson Communication Awards to **Vickie Bebee**, Machinist retiree who edited her union's newsletter both as an active member and her Retiree Club's newsletter as a retiree, and to **Rod Anderson**, National Association of Letter Carriers retiree who has learned the skills required to record and edit the Retiree Council's

YouTube segments and is a key to maintaining that program.

Don Anderson Affiliate Excellence Award to the **Minnesota State Council of Machinist Retirees** for its program of member education, political education and activism, and community involvement.

Passage of a resolution supporting the Lymphedema Treatment Act in the US Congress to provide for Medicare coverage of treatment items as durable medical equipment, also to be forwarded to the Minnesota AFL-CIO Convention.

Election of one-half of the Directors to the Executive Board for two-year terms.

An educational discussion around the Canadian cartoon video *Mouseland* exploring ideas that might help us in the 2016 election. Some discussion points emerging were:

We developed a long list of reasons we need to work to retain a worker-friendly Senate and recapture the labor-friendly majority in the House, including promotion of all of the issues on the labor agenda, rejection of the right-wing agenda, support for the Governor, and ending the legislative gridlock.

In order to expand citizen involvement we need to reach out to communities outside of labor, discuss issues with people—TALK with them about the issues, LISTEN to their concerns, and tie their concerns to voting, ask people to help with phone banks, door knocks, post cards, other support they could give.

Promote the early voting opportunity by educating about it, offering rides to the polls, helping people get absentee ballot requests on-line, etc.

Thanks to Convention Committee Chair Lois Wendt for her hard work in organizing the convention preparation and to all the committee chairs and members who worked with her.

IN MEMORY – JOHN GUYSE

John Guyse was a long-time member of the State Retiree Council Executive Board. He worked on the Affiliations Committee and always provided willing help on any job there was to do. He traveled from Rochester to help with tasks like assembling our newsletters and convention materials, and the annual fundraiser, in addition to being a regular Board meeting attendee. He helped organize Retiree Council events in Rochester. A retired member of IBEW 343, John was always a cheerful and devoted union brother. His smiling face will be missed at our Board meetings and annual events. Our condolences to his family.

The following obituary was written by John and printed in the Rochester Post Bulletin:

After getting a diagnosis that I cannot beat (lung cancer), I want to share a little of myself.

I was born to Fredrick (Red) and Ruth Guyse on Nov. 20, 1944, in Rochester. My ancestors were some of the early settlers in Rochester, supplying ice from Bear Creek for refrigeration, a soap factory, herbal medicine, and mid-wife services. I went to Northrup Grade School, Central Junior High and John Marshall High School. I was lucky enough to meet my love in high school and we married way too young. The flip side of too young: we had 50 years together. We grew, we partnered, we dreamed and we traveled.

Marriage brought me the realization, with coaxing from my father-in-law, a job might be in order and I had the good fortune of being admitted to the electrical apprenticeship program. I plied my trade at Adair Electric for most of my 40 working years, meeting and working with people I held dear.

We had two children, Alexander and Nathan, who could not have made me more proud. They brought joy to my life. I had so much fun with them camping, boating, Boy Scouts, watching them play baseball, basketball and soccer. I had the great privilege of coaching boys and girls, not as much in sports, but how to play.

I danced, I gardened and I traveled. I had a great time and consider myself so fortunate to have had

such opportunities and friendships. I had 71 years of fun on this earth and am grateful for every one of them. Life has come full circle, as it will for all. Don't waste time mourning; make your fun and your memories. I sure did and I'm leaving them behind with my family and friends.

I am also leaving behind my wife, Sandra (Fitting); my sons, Alexander (Nancy) and Nathan (Crystal); four grandchildren, Ethan, Alivia, Kellan and Mattea; a son, Brock Falkenberg, (Joni); grandsons, Cord, Nate, Bron; my brother David (Noreen); my sisters, Mary House and Margaret; a close nephew, Joshua (Karen); and my sister-in-law, Jean Guyse.

My parents preceded me in death, along with my son, Bruce, who died as an infant, my sister, Linda, my sister, Patricia Tilford, and my brother, Joseph.

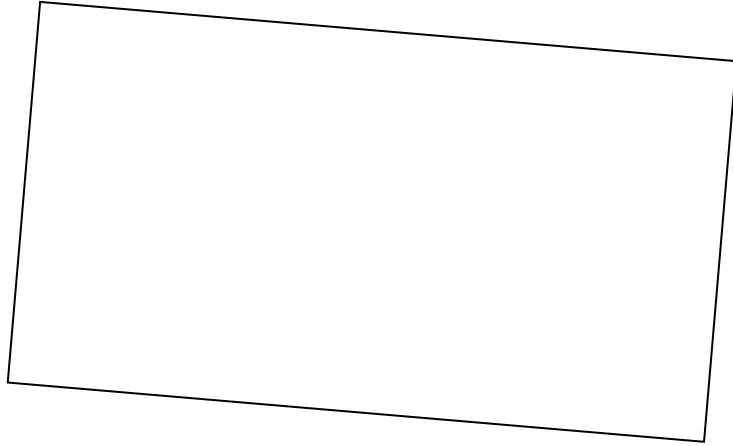
IN MEMORY—AUDREY ROE

Audrey Roe, wife of Minnesota AFL-CIO President Emeritus and Retiree Council Board member Dave Roe, passed away on Friday, October 22, 2016 at the age of 91. Dave posted the following on his Facebook page:

With profound sadness, I mourn the passing of my dear, beloved wife Audrey, my love and life partner of over 70 years. Her greatest joy was her family, of which she was truly our heart. I find comfort that she is free from pain and has received the blessing of peace that she prayed for. She lived life with amazing grace and courage and will be missed beyond measure.

In addition to her husband Dave, Audrey is survived by her daughters Judy Grudem, Nancy Holt and Susie Olson; nine grandchildren; nineteen great grandchildren; and one great-great grandson.

A funeral service was held Thursday, October 27. Our condolences to Dave and to Audrey's family and her many friends.



A strong, united voice for Minnesota's retired workers.

E-mail: retirees@mnafcio.org

Fax: 651-227-3801

Phone: 651-227-7647

St. Paul, MN 55103

175 Aurora Avenue

Minnesota State Retiree Council, AFL-CIO

Editor's Note:

This is an informational publication — and is the official newsletter and property of the Minnesota State Retiree Council, AFL-CIO. For information, contact the Minnesota State Retiree Council, AFL-CIO. Address: 175 Aurora Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55103. Phone: 651-227-7647 or toll-free 1-800-652-9004.

Volunteer!

Join our Rapid Response Political Action Volunteers. Contact information below!

Call: 651-227-7647

E-mail: retirees@mnafcio.org

Retiree Bulletin Info:

- President: Bill Moore
- Editor: Martha Johnson
- Layout Editor: Barb Hitzeman
- Staff Writer: Martha Johnson

