



# THE LOCAL 34 BANNER

## Who's in Local 34?

### Job Classifications Covered by Our Contract

- ◆ Case Management Assistants
- ◆ Community Health Specialists
- ◆ Chemical Clinical Health Specialists
- ◆ Child Protection Social Workers
- ◆ Child Support Officers
- ◆ Clinical Nursing Specialists
- ◆ Community Health Workers
- ◆ Corrections Counselors
- ◆ Dental Assistants and Hygienists
- ◆ Financial Case Aides
- ◆ Health Care Assistants
- ◆ Health Care Quality Improvement Specialists
- ◆ HHS Medical Services Coordinator
- ◆ Human Services Representatives
- ◆ Interpreters
- ◆ Licensed Practical Nurses
- ◆ Medical Assistants
- ◆ Medical Examiner Investigator Assistants
- ◆ Medical Examiner Technicians
- ◆ Psychiatric Social Workers
- ◆ Psychologists and Clinical Psychologists
- ◆ Public Health Nurses
- ◆ Record Information Specialists
- ◆ Sentencing To Serve Crew Leaders
- ◆ Social Workers and Senior Social Workers
- ◆ Special Programs Counselors
- ◆ Sterile Processing Technicians
- ◆ Training Specialists
- ◆ Veterans Service Representatives
- ◆ Volunteer Coordinators
- ◆ WIC Public Health Nutritionists

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## AFSCME Local 34 Mission Statement

To unite Hennepin County employees within the jurisdiction of AFSCME for mutual welfare, protection, and advancement.

To work for the establishment and maintenance of fair salaries, reasonable working hours, adequate working conditions and fair personal practices.

To foster and promote a good understanding between the employees, their employers, and the public.

To fulfill our commitment to social justice for all Americans through the reasonable use of Union energies and resources.

## President's Report Sept. 2018

Sisters and Brothers:

Happy Labor Day! Enjoy a hard earned day of rest thanks to those who have come before us and fought for organized Labor!

RISE UP AFSCME! I cannot tell you how encouraged I am seeing so many of you become more active than ever in our AFSCME Local 34! Organizing in the workplace, attending Rally's, attending Board meetings, Standing in solidarity at the Board meetings and Speaking out at Board meetings, calling key management, calling Board members, signing petitions and post cards, Informational picketing, and more!

WE RUN HENNEPIN COUNTY! And we're sending that message to Management, the Board, and the Public. This is who we are – ACTIVISTS who demand respect and dignity in the workplace! THANK YOU to all my Sisters and Brothers who RISE UP in the workplace!

Janus who? The Supreme Court case, which sought to weaken the power of Unions and strip us workers of the Freedom to join together and negotiate a fair return for a hard days' work has occurred. The decimation of unions that the rich & corporate elites hoped for hasn't happened. Just like the generations before us who have given sweat, tears, blood, and their lives standing up for our freedom to join together, workers today are continuing to stand up for dignity and respect in the workplace, for due process, the ability to provide for their families, and the ability to retire in dignity. If you have not joined our AFSCME union in the fight for these things, Sign a Maintenance of Membership card today! If you want to keep our AFSCME Dental and keep it solvent, Sign a Maintenance of Membership card today! Go to <http://afscmemn.org/> and click on MemberLink to sign online, or call 651-450-4990 to sign up via voice authorization. If you haven't previously signed a Maintenance of Membership card, when you do so, you receive one of our AFSCME Local 34 t-shirts!

Keep WEARING GREEN on TUESDAYS!!! Even in our Hennepin Health line of business who just presented a dress code policy banning printed t-shirts, WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO WEAR OUR AFSCME T-SHIRTS. Obviously, use your judgement – please do not wear your AFSCME T-shirt into Court. But any other day, we can wear our AFSCME T-shirts. We need to keep the pressure on the County to give us respect and dignity in the workplace and pay a fair wage for a hard days' work by attending the County Board meetings on Tuesdays at 1:30pm in GREEN. It takes all of us to give what we can of our talents, time, and treasure to bring equity and justice for all our AFSCME members. Additional actions are being planned in the near future! Watch your e-mail and Facebook for more info.

Do not hesitate to reach out to me at any time with questions or concerns. My personal e-mail is [jbgm99@gmail.com](mailto:jbgm99@gmail.com) and my personal phone is 763-300-1047.

Always in Solidarity,

Grace Baltich



## Accessing Our Margins: How Going to Netroots Makes Better Activists

By Christina M Eichorn

With every passing news cycle, we find more and more of our rights up for debate, threatened with privatizations, immigration bans, and attacks on collective bargaining. Even in wildly progressive spaces, such as the Netroots Nation convention, we are not immune to these attempts for division and exclusivity. This year, Local 34 elected to send Alyssa Saby, Kiya Shafer, Sean Watkins, and me to the Netroots Nation convention, hosted in New Orleans, and for this activist, it was enlightening in many ways that were unplanned and maybe even unintentional.

As activists, we are often called to advocate for and lift up the voices of the folks living in the margins. We are drawn to help the people that society has told us not to trust, the ones we should dismiss, and in some cases harm, for the greater benefit of our society or simply for individual gain. We, as activists, look for ways to bring about equality and equity, in some form of justice, so that all of our neighbors can not only survive, but to thrive and bring our community together instead. But what happens when our voice becomes the focus, and not the people we are called to lift up? When does our advocacy become a hindrance, and is no longer the help we intended?

Netroots boasted having 67% panelists and trainers that were people of color this year – which is no small feat for diversity. But was it inclusive? Was it meaningful? A group of activists took the stage during the closing plenary to call in this concept. Many panels that were hosted by people of color were occurring simultaneously during the convention, forcing participants to choose one panel over the others. They challenged Netroots to be about the advocacy life in all its facets, and to seek out people of color for their leadership. And diversity is not exclusively about race and color. It's about including all types of minorities – gender identities, religions, sexual orientation, and people with disabilities (and many other forms not listed here).

This led me to think of our own organizations in our communities. Are we encouraging, giving access, and providing space for the leaders that come from these cultures? Are we truly striving for inclusivity and taking it to practice? We all know how important it is to have a voice at the table when decisions are being made. There comes a time when I, as an activist and advocate, can and should stop speaking for you, and instead, protect your safety so that you can speak for yourself. And I am ready to hear what you've got, when you are ready to share.

Thank you, Local 34 members, for believing in my activism and for sending me to Netroots Nation. I had a blast, and I have so much more to say about the trip than what is briefly included here. Feel free to reach out to me with any questions, for a chat, or if you have ideas that I can support.

# Netroots Nation



I attended Netroots Nation from August 1-5 in New Orleans along with Alyssa, Christina and Kiya. This was my first Netroots experience and what an amazing experience it was to learn, network and to hear some of the most up and coming leaders fighting to make changes in this country's political landscape and work we all do .

I took advantage of the 3 days of workshops and panels offered with topics ranging from Digital Union Organizing, Transcending Diversity, Congressional Advocacy, Leveraging Youth Power and Progressive Movements in Indigenous Communities. I felt that just being able to collaborate with people from all parts of the United States that are passionate and progressive thinkers gave me the motivation to bring that same passion back to Minnesota to our local union. My favorite part of the conference were the keynote speakers, where else would you get to hear Senators Elizabeth Warren, Kamala Harris, Cory Booker and The Mayor of Puerto Rico Carmen Yulin Cruz all under one roof. Hearing first hand from those on the frontline dealing with all the socio economic issues and racial division in this county left me with knowing so much more work needs to be done it starts with racial solidarity.

Netroots Nation will be in Philadelphia next year so if anyone has the opportunity to go I highly recommend attending.

Sean Watkins



# Netroots Nation

I had a great experience at the Netroots convention! I learned a lot about political organizing and advocacy of minority groups at Netroots. The conference offered seminars and panels that were both progressive and informative. I am very thankful that I was elected to attend and represent our local.

The sessions and panels offered were diverse and interesting, I was able to have the flexibility to choose which sessions interested me and would help me grow as a strong union member. I partook in sessions that included how we can better involve the largest minority group in organizing and activism; individuals with developmental and/or physical disabilities, panels that introduced the art of calling individuals in for a message as oppose to calling them out, being an ally to the LGBTQ+ community, and more. I selected sessions that were geared towards diversity and inclusion in movements, as well as workshops on how to organize with popular social media outlets. I was also able to see innovative movers and shakers in politics speak to the convention attendees about what change we can accomplish together.

I am grateful that I was chosen to partake in this experience and humbled by the opportunity to learn from and share ideas with individuals from various organizing back grounds. I will apply the knowledge and techniques I learned at the convention to help strengthen our union and fight for what is right! The conference strengthened my commitment to our union and encouraged me to be a leader who shares ideas with our brothers and sisters.

In solidarity and many thanks,  
Alyssa Saby



I had a wonderful time at Netroots. As a social worker in working in direct practice with clients it can sometimes be easy to feel disconnected from the political realm. Attending the conference was an amazing opportunity that reconnected me to my political roots and passion for social justice advocacy! Hearing Cory Booker and Alexandria Ocasio Cortez speak was a highlight for me! Their messages hit on many important themes and topics such as the ability to still have hope in these divisive political times, leadership, and the importance of community organizing.

I was also extremely impressed by the sheer number of panel topics we had to choose from. I got to attend panels on how to better organize with people with disabilities (or varying abilities), how to use social media to advance your political agenda, and various sessions on how to develop my skills as an activist of color. I thoroughly enjoyed the food and the infinite opportunities to network with other activists was incredible. Needless to say, I had a blast!

Best,  
Kiya Shafer





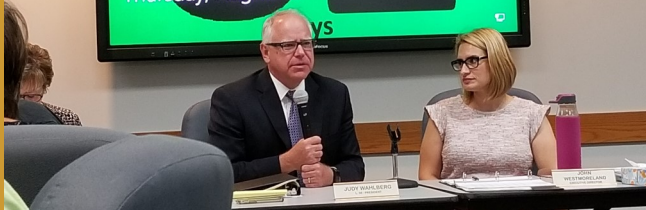
# Table Team and Negotiations



If anyone wonders what your Local 34 Table Team does when we are between contract proposal trades with the Employer the pictures here give you a good idea. We spend the majority of the time working on the next proposal in anticipation of what the Employer sends back to us. However, we still have “down time” so we share silly jokes, we whistle, we catch upon reading, we do some of our job related work –always have our county issued laptops on hand for that purpose, we play cards, we review old contracts for language we have used in the past to see when changed the wording, we walk the halls of whichever floor we are on, we go outside to catch some fresh air and to really stretch our legs.

Hopefully, by the time you read this, we will have reached a tentative agreement after our August 28th round of mediation— the day was added as we were not able come to agreement at our last scheduled mediation on August 20th. The days are long but your Table Team is up to it. You approved a dedicated group of members to represent you and that is what we are doing.

Check out our Facebook page for more pictures at <https://m.facebook.com/groups/25684399949>



The AFSCME Council 5 Executive Board Thursday unanimously endorsed Tim Walz and Peggy Flanagan for Governor and Lieutenant Governor in the November election, along with a slate of other highly qualified candidates for state and federal office.

The Executive Board is made up of members and elected by members.

“Tim and Peggy have strong track records of supporting the rights of workers, allowing us to make life better for ourselves, our families and our communities,” says Council 5 executive director John P. Westmoreland. “We are confident they will stand up to the billionaires and other powerful corporate interests trying to take away our rights and silence our powerful, united voice.”

“As a former teacher and longtime member of the National Guard, Tim respects public workers and understands the importance of quality public services,” says Council 5 president Judy Wahlberg. “We are thrilled to endorse lawmakers like Tim and Peggy who will represent workers, not just the 1 percent.”

The Executive Board also proudly endorsed:

- Ilhan Omar for U.S. Representative, Fifth Congressional District
- Joe Radinovich for U.S Representative, Eighth Congressional District
- Keith Ellison for Minnesota Attorney General

AFSCME Council 5 thanks Erin Murphy and Erin Maye Quade, who ran a strong campaign. We also thank all of the members who valiantly knocked on thousands of doors and made thousands of phone calls across the state.

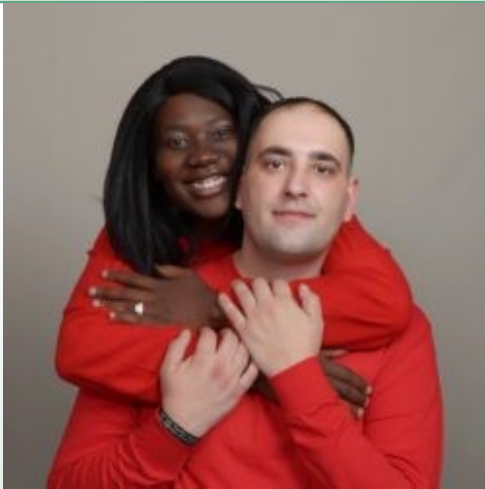
We will be calling upon you again, asking you to put your tennis shoes back on and hit the pavement for Tim Walz and Peggy Flanagan. It’s crucial that we work as hard as we can to make sure our next Governor and Lieutenant Governor will follow in the footsteps of Gov. Mark Dayton, who eliminated a \$6.2 billion deficit and delivered years of surpluses, while taxing the rich and investing in quality public services.

We must unite and elect candidates who support workers and our rights. If we fail to elect Tim and Peggy, we only need to look next door at Wisconsin to see our grim future.

But Council 5 members are ready for the challenge. Members demonstrate every day that unions are based on solidarity and unity. When we work together, we are unstoppable.







### **My Story—Trizer Smith**

My husband Jason suffers from injuries that resulted from his service in the Army, while deployed in Afghanistan. I met him while he was going through the medical evaluation. I found him at his worst. He was suffering from invisible wounds, PTSD and TBI. He was also experiencing chronic pain. As the invisible wounds began to manifest, he suffered from memory issues, hypervigilance, depression, anxiety, fatigue, and more. With assistance from the VA Caregiver Support Program, Jason and I are making progress, and focusing on transition steps that allow Jason greater and greater independence.

In my role as a Dole Caregiver Fellow, I want to shed some light on the importance of supporting caregivers' wellbeing. In order to continue providing care, we need to avoid burn out, manage stress, and take care of our own physical and mental health. From: <https://hiddenheroes.org/story/trizer-smith/>

Our very own Trizer Smith, Senior Social Worker in LTSS, has been honored by the Elizabeth Dole Foundation as one of the 28 Dole Caregiver Fellows in the 2018 class. These caregivers join close to 150 other caregivers in a network who have been recognized for their efforts in providing voluntary care for wounded, ill or injured veterans. It is estimated that 5.5 million spouses, parents, family members and friends provide this care. She will be honored on Monday ,August 27, 2018 at the Salute to Hidden Heroes: Pathways to Community Support for Military Caregivers hosted by the Elizabeth Dole Foundation, U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs and Philips.

### **Congratulations to Trizer on this honor and recognition of services provided.**

Read more about her story at: Caregiver to Blaine veteran honored for service  
<https://hiddenheroes.org/story/trizer-smith/>

Homes 4 Wounded Heroes gives Afghanistan vet new home in Blaine  
<http://www.startribune.com/homes-4-wounded-heroes-gives-afghanistan-vet-new-home-in-blaine/264837661/>

<https://www.elizabethdolefoundation.org/dole-caregiver-fellows/>

**Current**

#### **Wed. the 5th—Local 34 General Assembly Meeting**

5:30 p.m. Human Services Building  
525 Portland Avenue, Room 110, Minneapolis 55415

#### **Wed. the 19th—Local 34 Executive Board Meeting**

5:30 p.m. Human Services Building  
525 Portland Avenue, Room 917, Minneapolis 55415

#### **Thursday - Saturday, the 27th - 29th**

#### **AFSCME Council 5 Convention**

Doubletree Hotel, Bloomington MN

**Next**

#### **Wed. the 3rd—Local 34 General Assembly Meeting**

5:30 p.m. Human Services Building  
525 Portland Avenue, Room 110, Minneapolis 55415

#### **Wed. the 17th—Local 34 Executive Board Meeting**

5:30 p.m. Human Services Building  
525 Portland Avenue, Room 917, Minneapolis 55415

September 2018

# Nuts and Bolts

A brief guide to your Local 34

## STEWARDS

Jamoda Acevedo

Brenda Blaisdell

Julio Blee Alarcon

Teisha Broomfield

Jacqueline Coleman

Delia Dilday

Shanaya Dungey

Cassandra Dutrieuille

James Edin

William Fernow

Emily Frazier

Sarah Haigh

Tasheema Hopson

Caroline Malone

Watchen Marshall

Thomas Moore

David Paurus

Sheri Peterson

Rita Phelps

Shawnice Reid

Amorette Robeck

Alyssa Saby

Lindsay Schwab

Sean Watkins

Florence Williams

All Stewards serve a year long appointment beginning in May and lasting until April the following year.

## LOCAL 34 OFFICERS

**President**— Grace Baltich

**First Vice President** — Tamika Hannah

**Second Vice President** — Sametta Hill

**Treasurer**—Paul Madison

**Secretary**—David Yang

**Membership Secretary**— Deborah Konechne

**Sergeant-At-Arms**— Andrea Lazo-Rice

**Senior Chief Steward**— Kenneth W. Garnier

**Junior Chief Steward**— Remy Huerta-Stemper

**Members-At-Large**—

Angel Alexander

Yunuén Ávila

Dawn Coburn-Paden

Aaron Gardner-Kocher

Bobbie Miller Thomas

Brian Olson



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Local34/>

Closed group: [email Amanda Abell](#) for an invite



@AFSCME

@AFSCMEMNS

### Council 5 Member Action Center

651-450-4990 - call if you are not able to reach an officer or our Field Representative. Field Representatives are on hand to answer your questions Monday - Friday, 8:00 - 4:30

**Memberlink** - sign up now to access/update your information with Council 5

<https://members.afscmemn.org/>

AFSCME

**We make America Happen**

### Contact us:

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<http://afscmelocal34.org/>  
Email the editor: [jean.diederich@hennepin.us](mailto:jean.diederich@hennepin.us)

Signing Medicare and Medicaid into law 53 years ago on July 30, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson cited an innate human tradition calling on us to build a more just society.

"It calls upon us never to be indifferent toward despair. It commands us never to turn away from helplessness. It directs us never to ignore or to spurn those who suffer untended in a land that is bursting with abundance."

