Celebrating 80 Years
SEIU Healthcare Minnesota members won big in 2013.

80 years ago, healthcare was not considered real work because it was mostly performed by women and people of color. As a result, hospital workers were excluded from the 1935 National Labor Relations Act that provided a legal way for other workers to form unions in America. In the wake of a historic, massive strike led by the Teamsters in Minneapolis, women and people of color working in Twin Cities hospitals voted to conduct their own sit-down strike for union recognition. The hospitals did recognize our union, and SEIU Local 113 (later SEIU Healthcare Minnesota) became the first union of healthcare workers anywhere in America.

Over the last 80 years, our Union has set many standards. We were the first Union in the country to eliminate gender-based wage scales in healthcare. Before our Union, women earned 10% less than men for doing the same healthcare job. Later, we were the first Union to win a pension plan for private sector hospital workers. And we were the first to win every other weekend off for our members.

This year, our Union made history again. Home care workers (PCAs) in Minnesota have for many years faced the same criticisms of their work that our first members did back in the 1930s. Home care work, in the view of many politicians, was not “real work.” It is work performed mostly by women and people of color for low pay and no benefits, with no sick days, no health insurance and no retirement. After 10 years of organizing and lobbying, our Union finally won a change in the law to allow home care workers the right to form a Union. Next year, we expect 15,000 home care workers to vote to join SEIU Healthcare Minnesota, in the largest organizing election in Minnesota history. Our Union is poised to double in size and power, and I am pleased to report that we – through the leadership and guidance of our Executive Board – are ready to take on this extraordinary opportunity and challenge..

In 2013, our members celebrated many other significant wins, in addition to the historic victory for homecare workers. I am proud to report that while median wages in Minnesota fell, our members’ contracts moved forward. We accepted no concessions in bargaining this year. After a decade of fighting against take-backs, nursing home workers negotiated their biggest raises in 15 years. Members at Aspen clinics waged a summer-long campaign against health care concessions and won a new contract with employer contributions to their retirement plan for the first time. Workers at our
greater Minnesota hospitals from Red Wing to Sauk Centre also negotiated new agreements with their employers after a year of industry consolidation.

Our Union successfully implemented several new programs this year as well, including a recognition dinner for our senior members. Members and a guest will be invited to the annual dinner on their milestone years of service with our union (25, 30, 35, 40 and 45 years). We increased our strike fund to $1 per member per month. We started offering free CPR classes for members. We re-launched our union’s professional/technical division to focus on the career development of our members with degrees and advanced certifications. We also achieved a change to the MN Nurse Practice Act clarifying that LPNs can work to the full scope of their license.

Next year we will focus on bargaining new standards for our members as we fight to improve upon the best contracts for healthcare workers in the Midwest. We will work to organize and lift 15,000 homecare workers out of poverty and we will expand our education benefits and training programs for members yet again. Next year will mark another first for our Union, as we changed our bylaws to expand our democracy and rank-and-file decision making structures. We will host our first annual member convention, where members from around the state can gather to discuss and vote on the direction of our Union in the years to come. I am proud to report that our Union is stronger today than it was a year ago, and we are looking forward to another year of growth and setting new standards.

In Solidarity,

Jamie Gulley
President
Allina

Over the past year Allina members have been busy on all fronts. In response to our increasingly tense relationship with Allina Health, Allina stewards kicked off the year by marching on Allina Commons with 3 Demands for CEO Ken Paulus. Allina must first, reinstate Maria Wolf and Meredith Theis, second, Allina must settle SEIU contracts with a common expiration date and third, Allina must provide Equal Pay for Equal Work and a Pension for all SEIU members.

Later in the spring Technical Professionals at both Abbott and St. Francis voted to “hold their contracts open” until 2015 in response to Allina’s continued refusal to bargain a fair contract. The Technical professionals have made Allina’s choice very clear: either bargain a standard setting contract or they will hold open until they can join the master bargaining table with almost 4,000 SEIU Allina members.

Aspen members spent the summer beating back countless contractual take backs. After picketing and building towards a possible strike, members made it clear to Allina that they would NOT accept any take backs, Allina finally came to the table to bargain a fair contract with absolutely no concessions!

2015 Bargaining is a little over a year away and Allina stewards have already begun preparation.

Clinics

In 2013 we were able to reach a new three year agreement with Open Cities Clinic. In the face of many challenges the members stayed together and showed their solidarity.

Members at HealthPartners are beginning to prepare for 2013 contract negotiations and are ready to fight for the benefits in their contract, which has consistently set some of the highest standards in the healthcare industry.

Twin City Hospitals

The Twin City Hospital Delegates, composed of elected leaders from each facility covered under the shared, multiemployer contract, worked to coordinate activities, share challenges and plan for the future. The first challenge was the implementation of new vacation language. All the employers, except North Memorial, worked closely with us so that members wouldn’t lose accrued time and could take vacation. A second challenge was to fight against efforts to reduce staffing and increase workloads.

We were successful in many cases; but others are still unresolved. Members used petitions, flyers, mass meetings, and marches on the boss as well as grievances and charges of legal violations to push back against these attempted cuts. They are highlighting the overall staffing problems we have. Those will need to be issues for our next contract.

Twin City members are actively supporting the COPE program and many joined in at the Capitol to fight against Sanford Health’s proposed takeover of Fairview (which was rejected thanks to Attorney General Swanson).

We are only 12 months away from opening our contract, and we are already busy making plans for successful bargaining in 2015.
Long Term Care

Nursing Home workers received a big victory in the 2013 Legislature, a 5% funding increase broken down as follows:

1. September 1, 2013: an operating increase of 3.75% for all nursing homes. 75% of this amount is encumbered to go to staff wages and benefits.
2. An average increase of 1.25% as a quality add-on (which built into the base rate afterwards). Specific increases will range from 0%-3.2% for any given home depending on specific quality measures.

Thanks to SEIU member Patti Fritz as the key author to increase pay for nursing home workers and SEIU member Louise Duffee for speaking at the capital to support to increase pay for nursing home workers.

We continue to beat back all concessions proposed in all contracts and we have been able to bargain more money than the state encumbered funds. “When we fight, we win!”

SouthEast

We had a successful transition for our members in Red Wing from Fairview Health System to Mayo Health System, which concluded with a new three year agreement with good wage increases as well as other benefit enhancements. Members at Olmsted Medical Center bargained a new three agreement with wage improvements and other benefits.

2014 will continue to be an exciting year with contract negotiations as we have a number of agreements up for negotiations, but with the continued support and solidarity we are sure those agreements will have successful conclusions.
On Friday, September 20th healthcare workers from across Minnesota came together to celebrate 80 years of improving people’s lives. We celebrated our 80th anniversary by bringing in leaders from across the state and country to honor SEIU Healthcare Minnesota, the oldest healthcare union in America.

Throughout the day stewards took part in trainings and workshops, which included, strike preparedness, facility actions, retirement planning, FMLA, and the Affordable Care Act. One workshop, on immigration reform, was run by SEIU HCMN members who have been working on the immigration campaign since May.

Governor Dayton addressed SEIU members during the morning session. He spoke about about organizing home care workers, how MNSure had the lowest rates in the country, and the need to raise the minimum wage to $9.50.

SEIU Healthcare Minnesota also recognized the authors of our home care bill, Senator Sandy Pappas and Representative Mike Nelson. Each were presented with an award to show our appreciation for their tireless efforts to move our bill forward, and give home care workers the right to choose whether or not they want to join a union.

One of the most powerful parts of the day was led by Executive Vice President Jigme Ugen, who led a discussion on pride in our union. Stewards from across the state shared their personal stories about what gives them pride as a steward and a member of SEIU Healthcare Minnesota.
In the evening SEIU members let loose and celebrated 80 years of building power for working men and women. We were joined by our International President Mary Kay Henry, who helped us kick-off the evening. President Henry, who got her start in the labor movement at SEIU Healthcare Minnesota (formerly Local 113), talked about our rich history as a healthcare union, and looked to the future as we determine where our mission and vision will lead us.

“Virtually every person alive in Minnesota today who has sought and received healthcare has interacted with a workforce, and an industry that you helped to shape and build and that SEIU members have always been a part of. This most vital element of a community—healthcare—it’s past and present in Minnesota, and certainly its future, do not exist without you.”

--SEIU International President Mary Kay Henry
Last December, personal care attendants (PCAs) and other home care workers launched their campaign to form a statewide Union with SEIU Healthcare Minnesota. Five months later, at the end of May, the legislature passed and Governor Mark Dayton signed into law a bill allowing client-directed home care workers in public programs the right to form a statewide union. Now, 15,000 home care workers are poised to win their Union!

All of this was possible because home care workers and the people they work for were a constant presence at the State Capitol from the day the legislative session started on January 8 to the day it ended on May 20 — talking with legislators, holding rallies, and testifying at hearings in support of the bill.

Since the end of the legislative session, home care workers have continued organizing and have met with their legislators across the state to share their stories and talk about how we want to improve home care programs and raise home care workers out of poverty through our union.

In September, dozens of home care workers from around the state joined our All-Steward Assembly. They spent part of the day laying out their vision for their future union together, then held a brief press conference.

As 2013 comes to a close, home care workers are preparing to launch the largest organizing drive in Minnesota history - one that will represent the first growth in Union strength in Minnesota in over 30 years.

The PCA program is a blessing when it works. But in my years as a PCA, I see that most of the time it’s not working very well because of the high turnover and the lack of training opportunities. I have met and talked with many other PCAs — the problems are affecting all of us. I want a union so that if my family ever needs to rely on a PCA in the future, there will be a lot of good, well trained, reliable people to draw from.

--Shaquonica Johnson, Saint Paul
In addition to the thousands of homecare workers around the state who have fought to join SEIU Healthcare MN, two other groups organized and voted to join us this past year.

Last winter in Grand Rapids, the majority of the Health Service Attendants and Cooks at an assisted-living facility called Pleasant Seasons voted to join SEIU Healthcare MN. These workers knew that the Union was the only way they could have the legally binding voice on the job they deserved. Knowing that, they fought hard to organize and to win their vote. Stewards Melissa Truax and Jacalyn Wendt worked tirelessly in the months after the vote to keep building their Union in their workplace. Because of their hard work they were able to start making improvements in their first SEIU Union contract this year!

On October 28th, 2013, LPNs at HealthPartners Integrated Home Care voted overwhelmingly to join our Union. The LPNs work alongside RNs who are already SEIU members, and they have received great support from the RNs the whole way through. RN Steward Tina Joseph was particularly helpful in the organizing process. Tina answered questions for LPNs dutifully and really helped them understand why a vote to join SEIU was the right choice. The LPNs behaved like a Union from day one by making sure to include everyone in decisions and by sticking together when someone needed help. These LPNs are a great addition to the strong Union the RNs have already built at Integrated!
Politics 2013: Members Make Progress

The 2013 session of the Minnesota Legislature produced historic victories for healthcare workers. Governor Dayton and the DFL legislative majorities finished on-time, balanced the budget without shifts or gimmicks, and enacted four of SEIU’s top five priorities. But behind the headlines are members like you. SEIU members helped make progress possible by engaging in the legislative process and real SEIU members will benefit from the bill passed.

SEIU Healthcare Minnesota Priorities:
1. Collective Bargaining Rights for Homecare Workers
2. Consumer Friendly Healthcare Exchange
3. New Taxes To Pay For Nursing Home Rate Increase
4. Marriage Equality
5. Increase Minimum Wage

To-do in 2014

Members Make A Difference

When the legislature passed a 5% average rate increase for Minnesota nursing homes, no one celebrated more than Texas Terrace Care Center Steward Louise Duffee. Louise had championed the bill through the entire process. It started in February 2013 when Louise spoke at a press conference with SEIU Executive Board member and MN State Representative Patti Fritz who had introduced a bill to increase nursing home funding. Louise told reporters how increased healthcare costs and few raises had left her with a smaller paycheck. Latter, Louise attended SEIU Lobby day and met with her legislators to push the bill. When the bill was heard in committee, Louise was there to talk about how short staffing could leave her with ten call lights to answer and no additional help. Finally, in May, Louise spoke in front of several hundred people at the Care Givers Count rally to demand legislators include nursing home funding in their final budget.

“I never thought of myself as a political activist, but I found an issue I care about and SEIU gave me the tools to help make a difference. It is incredibly rewarding to negotiate a new contract, knowing I played a role in passing the new money.”

-- Louise Duffee, SEIU HCMN Steward
New Sick Leave Law Gives Workers More Flexibility

Tim Sorenson, a steward at GLC-Lake Ridge Care Center, was highlighted in a Minnesota Public Radio story about the new sick leave law SEIU helped pass at the legislature. One day, just before work started, Tim found out his Dad had suffered a stroke and was going to the hospital in an ambulance. “But when Sorenson tried to use a sick day for the episode, his supervisors would not allow it. They told him sick days only covered his own illness or a dependent child’s.” (MPR 6/30/2013) Now, however, under a new law passed this session, employers who offer sick time can no longer prevent employees from using their own sick time to take care of family members like a spouse, parents, adult children, and a wide range of other relatives. Previously the law had only applied to dependent children.

COPE

Political progress is never easy and powerful interests spend lots of money to fight back. That is why SEIU’s political fund, COPE, is so important. Voluntary contributions from members like you allow us to compete with wealthy corporations.

Our goal for 2013 was to sign up over $50,000 in new COPE contributors. By November 1, over 643 members had signed up as new donors and had raised more $52,858 in new annual contributions. By now over 2835 members belong to COPE, about 1 out of every 5 members. When we all contribute a little, we can do a lot.

Congratulations to Kim Huebner at HealthPartneres for signing up the most new COPE donors in 2013.

1975

Local 113 strikes at Elim Nursing Home in Princeton, MN; a caravan for strikers was organized.

April 1978

Local 113 awards Vice President Walter Mondale a honorary lifetime membership in the union in recognition of his work for the local as legal counsel and his work for the labor movement. Mondale’s first job out of law school was as counsel to Local 113.

Years later at the 1984 International Convention in Denver. Mondale said, he “learned in my heart what I knew in my head: how vitally important unions are to justice in America.”
In October of 2008, the phone lines to SEIU HCMN’s Member Action Center (MAC) opened and members started getting their questions answered by internal organizers dedicated solely to addressing member issues in one call if possible.

The idea behind the MAC was to provide dedicated staff that would work full-time ensuring each member received the best representation possible, whenever they had an issue or grievance. By dedicating some staff members to this function full-time, it allowed other staff members to focus on contract negotiations and organizing for improvements in our worksites. Because of our MAC, we have seen greatly improved results in both areas of our Union’s work.

In 2013, the MAC focused on working directly with stewards to educate, support and raise the level of respect for their authority in protecting member’s rights. This was met, at times with great resistance from some of the employers that members work for. The MAC was able to successfully partner with stewards and field staff not only to defend the rights of the Union but to lay the ground strategic offense as well. We filed an unprecedented number of unfair labor practices with the National Labor Relations Board, the federal body that enforces the labor laws protecting union activity. These charges were borne from the employer not providing the union the information it needed to enforce the Collective Bargaining Agreements, changing the terms and conditions of work without bargaining with the union, and blatantly retaliating against our member leaders for engaging in Union Activity. Time after time last year the board found merit.
and Grievances

to these charges and the employers were forced to face
the music.

In the case of Maria Wolf, a long time and extraordinarily
effective steward and Executive Board member fired
for raising a potential contract violation to her manager,
the NLRB found merit to our charge and took Allina to
a hearing in front of an Administrative Law Judge. The
date found that Allina had violated the NLRA by firing our
members for union activity and ordered Maria and another
member who brought the concern to her attention, back to
work with full restitution of pay and benefits. Two separate
arbitrators reinforced this decision with independent
rulings that these two members were unjustly terminated.
The Union, Maria and Merideth fought tirelessly to ensure
this deliberate attempt to stamp out union activity failed.

The Member Action Center opened 4,013 cases in the
last year. Many of these were resolved in the first call.
Approximately 10% resulted in grievances and .5% ended
in Arbitration. The MAC recovered over $100,000 in back
pay for members and through settlements and Arbitration
decisions, this year alone and over 1.2 million dollars in the
5 years that we have been in operation. The MAC offers
our members efficient means of resolving issues and a
person to work with immediately (or as close to immediate
as possible) when they call. We have eliminated voice mail
jail and created a responsive and effective system to work
with members on their individual issues.
Member Programs

2013 Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to the five SEIU Healthcare Minnesota 2013 scholarship winners: Cecilia Bardy-Gagner, HealthEast Bethesda Hospital and Kaylin Hubbard, Cerenity Care Center-Humboldt, Got Your Backs Scholarships; Hayley Noel Sodren, North Memorial Medical Center, Member Scholarship; Alyssa Buchner, daughter of Lori Buchner, HealthPartners, Cecilia Razook Memorial Scholarship; and Martin Anderson, son of Karen S. Anderson, HealthPartners, Son/Daughter Scholarship.

SEIU Healthcare Minnesota offers five $1,500 annual scholarship opportunities for use at any accredited post-secondary institution. One scholarship goes to further the education of a SEIU Healthcare MN member; two scholarships go to further the education of a son or daughter of a member; and two scholarships go to further the education of younger (30 years old or less) SEIU Healthcare MN members. More information is available at www.seiuhealthcaremn.org/member-resources/scholarships. Applications are due by April 30th, and are available online.

Caught Purple Handed

The “Caught Purple Handed” program was introduced at the beginning of 2013, and so far 38 SEIU Healthcare Minnesota members have been recognized for wearing union flair!

SEIU member who were “caught” wearing union flair (buttons, shirts, lanyards, etc.) by their internal organizer or steward were nominated and entered into a drawing to win $50.

Two names are drawn per sector at the SEIU Healthcare Minnesota membership meetings (held every other month on the third Thursday at 6:00pm).
Member Recognition Dinner

In May SEIU Healthcare Minnesota held the first annual Member Recognition Dinner, which recognizes members who have been in the union more than 25 years (at 5 year increments). Over 55 members and their guest attended the dinner.

In addition to presenting members with their recognition certificate, we started two new awards this year, the Norman Carle Member Activist award and the Betty Bednarczyk Courage award.

The Norman Carle Member Activist Award was presented to Scott Dudero, a 30-year member at Fairview Southdale Hospital. He is a Steward, and an active member of the community not only on behalf of himself but on behalf of the Union. He has worked endless hours as a political volunteer, knocking on doors and participating in a Week of Action. Time and time again Scott has demonstrated his passion for the union and dedication to helping others. The award was a surprise, and when accepting the award Dudero commented, “This is completely unexpected. I was just having fun.”

The Betty Bednarczyk Courage award was presented to Attorney General Lori Swanson for her work to get debt-collection firm Accretive Health out of Fairview, and later to stop the merger between Fairview and Sanford Health. Swanson was at the dinner to receive the award, and took several photos with members and staff.
Member Events

**Saints Game**
SEIU has an annual tradition of tailgating and attending a MN Saints game with members from all the SEIU locals. The event has been growing in size each year, and in 2013 we had the largest number of members sign up and attend!

**State Fair**
SEIU Healthcare Minnesota returned to the MN State Fair this summer, and had a booth for all ten days of the fair. Since our home care bill passed earlier in the year we knew there would be many questions from the general public. We wanted to make sure we could answer as many questions as possible with firsthand knowledge. We were also able to talk with some home care workers, and educate them on our bill and the upcoming campaign.

Many of the shifts at the State Fair Labor Pavilion were staffed by members who volunteered to talk to other members about their union. We were happy to be back at the fair, and members were happy to see their union with a strong presence at the great Minnesota get together.

**Women’s Build**
The 2013 MN Union Women’s Retreat was part of a series of events designed to foster greater participation by women in their workplace, union and community.

Women that participated in the Women’s Retreat were asked to volunteer one day for the 2013 Habitat for Humanity Women’s Build. The Women’s Build is a project for women that offers a unique approach to eliminating poverty housing in the Twin Cities. SEIU HCMN women volunteered for the build – from raising the first wall to landscaping. The Women’s Build is women empowering women to make a difference for families in the community.

**Zoo Day**
Every year SEIU offers admission to the MN Zoo for SEIU union members and their families. This year we had over 6,000 SEIU members and their families attend SEIU Zoo Day this past August, which is a record number!!
**SEIU Picnics**

SEIU hosted several member picnics across the state over the summer. We continue to strive to create opportunities for members to meet with other members in their community. Picnics were hosted in the following locations:

Crosby Area Picnic: Almost 70 members and their families attended the picnic on a beautiful day by Serpent Lake in Crosby. A big thanks to our two member hosts: Connie Leonard and Jennie Hatcher from Crosby!

Sauk Rapids Area Picnic: 50 members and their families enjoyed a picnic by the Mississippi River in Sauk Rapids.

Buffalo Area Picnic: About 75 members (and families) united at Sturgeon Park in Buffalo. The Buffalo Hospital workers, Park Nursing Home workers and school workers from St. Michael, Montrose, and Buffalo continue to unite in SEIU strength!

Cambridge Area Picnic: With over 60 people at the Cambridge picnic, we had the best turnout yet. The picnic even included a group that is working on a School Levy!

Rochester Area Picnic: Almost 80 SEIU members and their families that work in Rochester and Owatonna turned out on a beautiful evening for some food and fun.

Twin Cities Area Picnic: Over 300 people attended the Twin Cities picnic. Candidates for the city elections, as well as legislators were in attendance to meet with members.
Marriage Equality and Pride Parade
In 2013 SEIU members were active in the fight for marriage equality and SEIU HCMN was the first union to endorse the Freedom to Marry for all Minnesotans. Members spoke to legislators and attended rallies to demonstrate the need for legislation that would grant the freedom to marry. In May, SEIU members were present and celebrated as Governor Dayton signed the bill.

Members also joined the SEIU contingent and participated in the Minneapolis pride parade.

AFRAM SEIU Caucus
(The National Caucus for SEIU Members and Staff of African Descent)

Members of the AFRAM caucus participated in MLK Day with Abbott-Northwestern Hospital.

AFRAM SEIU held their annual Black History Month Celebration and Potluck and had International Executive Vice President Gerry Hudson attend the event as keynote speaker. Members enjoyed an exciting evening filled with music, poetry and singing.

This year was the 50th Anniversary of the March On Washington, D.C. Members of the AFRAM caucus coordinated an event called, “March On…” to commemorate and celebrate the historic March On Washington on August 28th, 1963. The ‘March On’ event was a call to action and aimed to continue to raise awareness about racial disparities in communities of color.

CPR Classes
For the first time, SEIU HCMN began offering members FREE CPR classes through the American Heart Association this year. The program will continue in 2014 and the first class of the new year will be offered in January. Classes are offered to members as a refresher to renew CPR certification or for members who never had a CPR class. The American Heart Association is approved through many hospitals, clinics and long term care facilities as meeting CPR requirements.
and Action

Immigration Reform
Members spent four months aggressively educating members about comprehensive immigration reform by leading workshops, rallies, and direct actions.

At the member-held and -led immigration workshop members spoke about commonsense immigration reform, the immigration bill, amendments and taught fellow SEIU members how they could help to win a fair pathway to citizenship for the more than 11 million immigrants living in the US, including some of our members and their families.

SEIU Member Appointed to MN State Board of Pharmacy

Earlier this year, I was honored to accept an appointment to the Minnesota State Board of Pharmacy by Governor Mark Dayton. My practice was mainly in hospital pharmacy for nearly two and a half decades. however, I learned a lot more about the profession after a few Board meetings and a couple national gatherings with other members of Boards of Pharmacy from across the US.

Right off the bat, my misconceptions about the purpose of the Board were challenged. It turns out, this oldest of professional Boards in our state is tasked first and foremost with protecting the public, and not with advocating for the profession as I previously assumed. Public health and drug safety drive the agenda of the staff, inspectors and Board Members. They are also the reason the five pharmacists and two at large board members also rotate in staffing the 3 committees responsible for medication and dispensing regulations.

These committees are:
- The Complaints committee: where anyone with a grievance about pharmacist, medications or pharmacies can petition the Board to investigate wrongdoing.
- The Disciplinary Committee: It deals with members of the profession who endanger the public due to drug diversion/abuse, or other misconduct.
- The Variance Committee: that grants exemptions for Board policies and approves new technologies.

As an SEIU steward (for about 8 years) and a Union member, I appreciate the opportunity to bring a new perspective to a Board dominated by chain pharmacies and healthcare institutions. The input of workers, the ones who create the wealth in this nation, goes often unheard in the loud din of monied access. I’m grateful and proud for the opportunity to help keep the public and the pharmacy profession safe.
Standing Up To Corporate Power

With stark racial disparities in employment, education, and health worse in Minnesota than in most other states, Minnesotans for a Fair Economy (MFE) continued fighting in 2013 to shift power from big banks and toward people and communities.

Unlock Our Future February Week of Action

Focusing on some of the biggest industry players in the state, including U.S. Bank, Wells Fargo, Target, all MFE partners joined together in the streets, at workplaces and at the legislature to call on these giant corporations to end practices that harm our communities. The week featured security and cleaning workers striking, faith leaders calling on legislative leaders to invest in people, civil disobedience outside of Wells Fargo, prayer vigils, packing legislative hearings at the Capitol and more.

Minnesota Homeowners’ Bill of Rights

Despite a tough battle, MFE was proud to lead the effort leading to passage of the Minnesota Homeowners’ Bill of Rights, crafting some of the strongest consumer protections in the country against unfair bank foreclosures.

Progressive Revue and Better Education Funding

For the first time in decades, Minnesota passed legislation for a more progressive tax structure ensuring that the wealthiest 2% would pay their fair share of taxes, allowing for investments in essential services such as education and healthcare, with considerable work from TakeAction Minnesota, ISAIAH, SEIU and the AFL-CIO.

Immigrants Rights

CTUL and Jewish Community Action were part of a broad coalition of immigrants rights organizations, Mesa Latina, that won instate tuition for the children of undocumented immigrants. And MFE partners have joined with a broad coalition of organizations engaging in ongoing activities including a 40-day round-the-clock-vigil (during which time the largest Latino church in Minneapolis closed its Wells Fargo account for their contributions to anti-immigrant politicians), marches, rallies, congressional visits calling for commonsense immigration reform.
Financial Resources

Bargaining, Representation and member communications: 45%

Contract campaigns, negotiating our contracts, wage re-openers, representation and actions to enforce contracts (like grievances and arbitration), flyers, newsletters and more.

Building Working Power Across the Country through Per Capita: 30%

Equity and Overhead with a Member Owned Building: 4%

Growth: 10%

Bringing workers into our union, to grow our strength and keep raising standards for pay and benefits across the health care industry.

Administrative and Operational Costs: 11%