



The 1148er

The official newsletter of the West St. Paul Federation of Teachers

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

I wish you all well as we begin another year together. I'd like to also extend a warm welcome to our new members! We were pleased to provide a great Boca Chica lunch for thirty six new teachers at New Teacher Orientation last week. We've been able to register most of them, but are still missing a few. So, if you haven't had a chance, introduce yourself to the new folks at your site, give them your union WHY, and connect with a Building Rep to help them get signed up! As per usual this time of year, there is a lot of disinformation out there denigrating public education and the work we do in union together to provide a first class public education. Providing our WHYs are the best defense against these bad actors. However, if you find you need more resources to better articulate the importance of our strong union and how it benefits our students, and our members, please take a [look at this](#), as well as [this message](#) from Education Minnesota President Monica Byron.



You can expect our first full edition of the 1148er in mid October, before MEA Break. Until then, have a great Labor Day weekend (brought to us by the Labor Movement), and have a great start with our kids next week!

In solidarity,

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KNOW YOUR CONTRACT!

You can find our contract on both [our website](#) and on the [197 website](#). Be sure to keep it readily accessible but above all, know your rights! If you ever need any help understanding them, your building reps stand ready to help!

DUES DEDUCTION UPDATE

In previous years, dues were deducted from 18 paychecks during the school year. This year, due to the timing of pay dates and the need to complete all deductions before the school year ends, dues will be taken from 16 paychecks instead. While the total annual amount remains the same, the amount deducted from each paycheck will be slightly higher. For instance, full-time (1.0) employees will see a \$59.65 deduction from each of 16 paychecks, beginning October 10. Additional information will be provided in the "[Welcome Back Letter](#)", linked here and delivered to your school mailbox. Keep this document! It has a lot of great information on dues and other withdrawals (e.g. 403B, HSA, etc.) so you can reference it when you check your paychecks!

If you have any questions, please reach out via email at wspft1148treasurer@gmail.com

Again, dues are NOT going up in cost.

2025 NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

KNOW WHERE YOU STAND!

Our Local 1148 negotiators have made significant progress on several language items and financial proposals during five meetings with the district over the summer months. Language items tied to bereavement, birth/adoption leave, and federation access to new members were tentatively amended. Clarification on many other language items were revised, including lane change dates and payroll installments.

Increasing costs of insurance continue to be a major obstacle to a fair and timely settlement. Our team knows that veteran teachers are seeking a more advantageous position, and our efforts are targeted towards making sure every member is fairly compensated.

We will resume meeting both as a negotiating team and with the district in September. Given our progress in the summer, we know we are further along than normal at this time. However, creative work is being done to surmount the financial challenges due to the "cost containment" period the district is in.

We appreciate your support,

Your WSPFT Negotiations Team

Anne Bolsem, Matt Beniak, Kristy Otte, Phil Hayes, and Brian McCarthy

SOCIAL MEDIA



@wspft1148



@wspft1148



@wspft



<http://wspft.mn.aft.org>

MEMBER RECOGNITION

Know of a member who is doing extraordinary things that deserves a shout out? **Email Brian** and we will look to get them into the next e1148er and on our social media feeds!

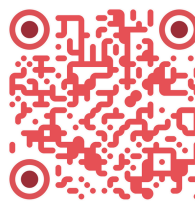
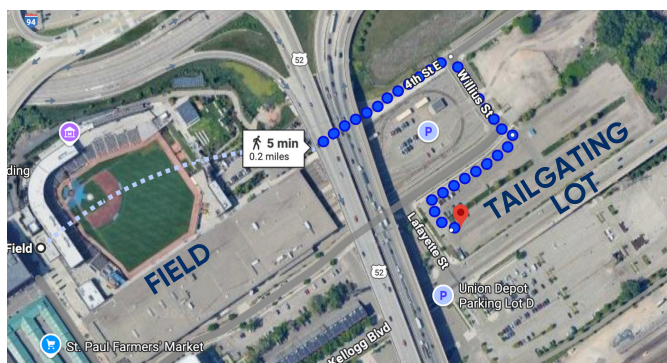
ORGANIZING FOR SETTLEMENT UPDATES FROM VP LORA MESSER-NILLES

SOLIDARITY AT THE SAINTS GAME

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH @6:37PM

Join fellow WSPFT members for fun and camaraderie as the St. Paul Saints take on the Columbus Clippers at CHS field (360 N. Broadway St)! Before the game, starting around 4:30, WSPFT members are invited to gather at the Saints Tailgating Lot (431 E. Kellogg Ave) and then walking to the game together. Parking spots are available for those willing to bring a car of WSPFT members to the game! Tickets and Saints Bucks (for food and non-alcoholic beverages) will be provided! WEAR WSPFT GEAR or BLUE!

RSVP to Lora Messer-Nilles or use the QR code below by Thursday, September 4th.



LAPTOP STICKERS!

You should have received a WSPFT laptop sticker in your mailbox.

If you didn't get one and you want one, please reach out to your building rep to get one!

See page 4 for who to contact if you're not sure!!

TIME TO UPDATE YOUR UNION APPAREL

It's time to order new WSPFT Union apparel! There are 6 different options (e.g. T-shirts, hoodies) and sizing up to XXL, so filling out the form is essential to getting what YOU want! This form will also collect personal contact information (emails and cell numbers) to keep you in the loop of sensitive information, especially during negotiations!

Fill out the [UNION APPAREL](#) form by **September 4th**.

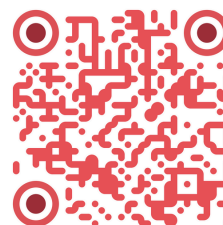
GET INVOLVED!

2025 HOMECOMING PARADE!

The parade begins at Garlough Elementary and ends at Two Rivers High School. The route is approximately 1 mile.

It's a fun, feel-good event where we throw candy while students cheer for us, as we remind our community how beloved we are and how vital we are to our students!

Use the QR code or [this link](#) to share your interest in this event or others coming up!



PEOPLE TO KNOW:

OFFICERS:

- Brian McCarthy (TR), President
- Lora Messer-Nilles (FHMS), VP
- Laura Scott (TR), Treasurer
- Beth Rabe (MO), Secretary
- Phil Hayes (FHMS), Past President
- Kim Zellmer, ATPPS Coordinator

NEGOTIATORS:

- Anne Bolsem (PK)
- Phil Hayes (FH)
- Kristy Otte (H)
- Matt Beniak (PK)



BUILDING REPS:

- Margaret Citta (TR)
- Matt Malmberg-Merthan (TR)
- Janelle Christensen (TR)
- Jodie Darwitz (FH)
- Patrick McCormick (FH)
- Angela Penttila (H)
- Kristi Cooper (H)
- Hayley DeMers (H)
- Lea Beniek (ELC)
- Michelle Smith (ELC)
- Lisa Jasper (GEMS)
- Julia Linehan (GEMS)
- Samantha Schiltz (ME)
- Anna Thul (ME)
- Anna Banti (MO)
- Kaitlyn O'Neil (MO)
- Joann Cudo (PK)
- Julie Fitzgerald (PK)
- Mary Nelson (S)
- Lori Thomas (S)

FUTURE 1148ER ISSUES



Have ideas for future issues or want to help in the production of the e1148er? We'd love to [hear](#) from you!



EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

Just a reminder that Executive Board meetings are open to all Local 1148 members. For a complete list of meeting times/dates, you can always refer to our [website](#)! If you would like to attend you can reach out to any EB member who can provide more information. All are welcome!

CONTACT INFO UPDATES

Do you have a NEW address? Do you have a NEW last name? Do you have a NEW building assignment/FTE? Please contact Laura Scott, our Treasurer, at wspft1148treasurer@gmail.com with any and all changes to keep our records up to date, and our lines of communication with you uninterrupted.