



**Wisconsin State AFL-CIO**  
6333 W. Bluemound Road, Milwaukee, WI 53213  
Phone: 414-771-0700  
wisafclcio.org

January 2024

## **TO ALL AFFILIATES**

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

The annual Wisconsin State AFL-CIO **Community Services Conference** will be held **March 21 and 22 at the Madison Concourse Hotel and Governor's Club**. The conference will open with a plenary/general session at **10:00 a.m.** on Thursday, March 21. *[This is a change from the past!]* Registration will be available that morning beginning at 8:00 a.m. Details regarding the registration fee, lodging, and related matters can be found on the reverse side of this letter. Below you will find a general overview of the conference. It is not meant to be all-inclusive but merely give a framework for the time we will be together. The scheduling of some sessions may be modified to accommodate guest speakers.

This conference really is a call to action - with the intent that the education and information provided will allow participants to become more involved in both the labor movement and also within their individual communities. The AFL-CIO Labor Engagement program is about "making the community a better place in which to live, work, raise a family, and retire". It is about mobilizing Union members - through local unions and central labor councils - to address workplace and social justice issues. By building strong partnerships with other community and faith organizations, more can be achieved.

Thursday's opening plenary session will include the presentation of the Ralph A. Jirikowic Award and the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO Project Award. *[Nominations for both awards are due on Wednesday, March 6. Application forms with additional information are included in this mailing. Please consider nominating a volunteer or a group of volunteers from your area!]* There will be two general sessions, with a break for lunch and an afternoon break.

Over the two days, conference attendees will hear from the President and Secretary-Treasurer of the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO. Updates will be given on the upcoming spring and fall elections, organizing across the state, and other pertinent subjects. What are the strategies for 2024 and beyond? There is much work to be done, to make Wisconsin better for all working families, and this is an excellent opportunity to hear first-hand about plans for the upcoming year. And we will have sponsored hospitality Thursday evening, to allow for all to have the chance to meet other Union activists from across the state.

On Friday, we will have a general session in the morning, a buffet luncheon, and then another general session in the afternoon. At this time, we will again get legal updates from The Previant Law Firm on a number of areas including FMLA, NLRA updates, and much more. The general session will adjourn no later than 5:00 p.m. You can then return to your respective communities recharged and ready to go!

We are certain that you will find the conference educational and packed with useful information that you can take back to your local unions. Please submit your **registration fee of \$100.00 per attendee and completed registration form(s) by Wednesday - March 13, 2024.**

In Solidarity,

Handwritten signature of Stephanie Bloomingdale in black ink.

Stephanie Bloomingdale  
President

Handwritten signature of Marcos Alfaro Sr. in black ink.

Marcos Alfaro  
Secretary-Treasurer

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## CONFERENCE INFORMATION

### LOCATION:

The Madison Concourse Hotel and Governor's Club  
One West Dayton Street  
Madison, WI 53703  
608-257-6000 or 800-356-8293

### REGISTRATION:

**\$100.00** per attendee, which includes a buffet luncheon on Friday. Check, made payable to the **Wisconsin State AFL-CIO**, must be included with registration form (enclosed) and received **by Wednesday - March 13, 2024**. *[Please note the mailing address below!]*

### QUESTIONS:

If you have questions concerning the conference or need additional information/clarification, please contact Ann McNeary, AFL-CIO Labor Liaison and Conference Chair, at either [labor@uwdc.org](mailto:labor@uwdc.org) or 608-246-4355.

### SEND FORM AND REGISTRATION FEE TO:

**2024 WI State AFL-CIO Community Services Conference**  
c/o Ann M. McNeary, AFL-CIO Labor Liaison  
2059 Atwood Avenue  
Madison, WI 53704

### CONFERENCE/HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Madison Concourse Hotel **until Friday, March 15, 2024**. After that date, the rooms will be released to the general public. To receive the rate listed below, be sure to inform the hotel staff that you are attending the WI State AFL-CIO Community Services Conference or you may use this link: <https://reservations.travelclick.com/6388?groupID=4143597>.

### ROOM RATES: *[NOTE: The hotel reservation deadline is March 15<sup>th</sup> so act soon!]*

Guest room rates, per night, in the Concourse rooms are:  
\$169 - single or double; \$179 - triple; and \$189 - quad  
Rates, per night, in the Governor's Club rooms are:  
\$229 - single or double

**NOTE: Rates shown do NOT include the \$18 per day parking fee (self-park) for overnight guests or the current applicable state and local taxes of ~15.5%!**

**2024 Wisconsin State AFL-CIO Community Services Conference**  
**March 21 and 22**  
**Madison Concourse Hotel and Governor's Club**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

*Submit One Form per Conference Participant - Photocopy as Necessary*  
*Receipt/Acknowledgement Will NOT Be Sent - Please Keep Copy of Completed Form for Your Records*

Registration Fee: **\$100.00** per attendee  
***Make check payable to the WI State AFL-CIO!***  
Fee and Registration Form must be submitted by **Wednesday - March 13, 2024** to:

2024 WI State AFL-CIO Community Services Conference  
c/o Ann M. McNeary, AFL-CIO Labor Liaison  
2059 Atwood Avenue  
Madison, WI 53704

*Please print or type:*

Labor Organization or Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_  
[International Union and District Council or Local Number **OR** Central Labor Council **OR** Other Labor Organization]

Participant's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name as It Should Appear on Badge: \_\_\_\_\_  
[first name] [last name]

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
[street address] [city / state / zip]

Contact Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
cellular work home other  
[circle one]

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

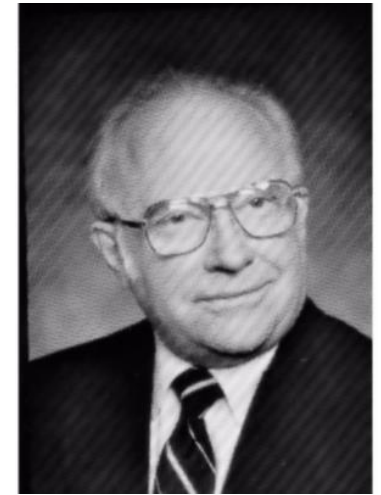
***The tentative overall conference agenda, with approximate times, is as follows:***

<i>Thursday, March 21</i>	<i>8:00 a.m.</i>	<i>registration opens - continental breakfast provided and display tables available</i>
	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>conference begins/first general session</i>
	<i>11:45 a.m.</i>	<i>lunch on your own</i>
	<i>1:15 p.m.</i>	<i>second general session (with an afternoon break)</i>
	<i>5:00 p.m.</i>	<i>hospitality provided by the Coalition of Labor Liaisons</i>
<i>Friday, March 22</i>	<i>8:00 a.m.</i>	<i>third general session (with a morning break)</i>
	<i>11:45 a.m.</i>	<i>buffet luncheon (included in registration fee)</i>
	<i>1:15 p.m.</i>	<i>final/fourth general session (includes updates from The Previant Law Firm and an afternoon break)</i>
	<i>5:00 p.m.</i>	<i>conference adjourns</i>

## History of the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO Ralph A. Jirikowic Award

Annually, the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO seeks nominations from its affiliates for its prestigious community services award. The nominees are carefully screened, and only after a very deliberative process, one outstanding union volunteer emerges. In order to receive the highest award the Wisconsin AFL-CIO can offer for service to the community, the nominee must have demonstrated a continuous record of dedicated service in the workplace, the local union, and the community. These outstanding representatives of the labor movement are presented the award at the annual Community Services Conference by the President of the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO.

When it was established in 1984, this award was named the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO Community Services Award. In 1987, it was renamed the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO Ralph A. Jirikowic Award, in memory of a dedicated union leader who epitomized the very best the Wisconsin Labor Movement has to offer. Prior to retirement, Brother Jirikowic served as Vice President of the Milwaukee County Labor Council and was a member of UAW Local 9 (Brewery Workers) for 49 years. Brother Jirikowic left the Wisconsin labor movement with a legacy of caring and helping, and it is only fitting that the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO name its highest award for service to the community in honor of him.



### Past Recipients of the RALPH A. JIRIKOWIC AWARD

1984:	Norbert Naidl USWA Local 6499	1994:	Elaine Capelle AFSCME Local 1800	2004:	Gretchen Lowe AFSCME Retirees Subchapter 52	2014:	Carrie Riddle Laborers Local 236
1985:	Kevin Gerarden Fire Fighters Local 316	1995:	Mona Adams Winston CWA Local 4630	2005:	Kevin Mieczkowski UAW Local 180	2015:	Tony Anderson United Steelworkers (USW) Local 2-1114
1986:	Vernice Gallimore AFSCME Local 645	1996:	Mariano Aviles USWA Local 1610	2006:	Tim Voelker NALC Branch 619	2016:	Thomas Coyne Painters (IUPAT) Local 781
1987:	Donald Stuttgart CWA Local 4640	1997:	Ron Salmon UAW Brewery Workers Local 9	2007:	Helen Olig IAMAW Local 1259	2017:	Christopher Olig Laborers Local 113
1988:	Gerald Koester IUOE Local 310	1998:	Norman Sanders Bricklayers Local 9	2008:	Wayne Wesenberg IBEW Local 1147	2018:	Chris Yatchak GCC/IBT Local 577-M
1989:	Anthony Frisque UAW Local 1102	1999:	Sheila Sims AFSCME Local 60	2009:	Christopher Jay Perillo Kenosha Education Association	2019:	Pam Fendt Laborers (LiUNA) Local 113
1990:	James Lyons IAMAW Lodge 1855	2000:	Gerald "Red" Herzberg PACE Local 7-0059	2010:	Luke M. Wachowiak IBEW Local 388	2020:	Jeff Starr IBEW Local 388
1991:	Richard Johnson GCIU Local 382	2001:	John Larson IAMAW Lodge 516	2011:	Douglas Curler Machinists Lodge 66	2021:	Mark Westphal United Steelworkers (USW) Local 2-1279
1992:	Dolores Higgins AIW Local 232	2002:	Joe Wiffling IAMAW Lodge 1855	2012:	Carol Vetter United Steelworkers Local 850	2022:	Kevin Turner SMART Local 18
1993:	Lyle Balistreri IBEW Local 494	2003:	Cleo Walls UAW Brewery Workers Local 9	2013:	Tony Vanderbloemen OPEIU Local 9	2023:	Decorah Gordon IBEW Local 2150

**Wisconsin State AFL-CIO**  
**RALPH A. JIRIKOWIC AWARD**  
**NOMINATION FORM**

**NOTE:** You may make more than one nomination. Please make extra copies as necessary including one for your records. Submit to: Ralph A. Jirikowic Award, c/o Ann M. McNeary, 2059 Atwood Avenue, Madison, WI, 53704. The deadline for nominations is **March 06, 2024.**

**NOMINEE QUALIFICATIONS:**

1. Be an active or retired member of an affiliate of the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO and
2. Have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to providing ***VOLUNTEER*** community service activities to people in the workplace, the local Union, and/or the greater community

**NOMINEE INFORMATION:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Union Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_  
(International or Council and Local Union Number)

**NOMINATOR INFORMATION:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Union Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_  
(International or Council and Local Union Number)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City / State / Zip)

Telephone: ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**ORGANIZATIONAL APPROVAL:**

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
(International or Council and Local Union Number)

Officer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Officer's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOMINEE'S VOLUNTEER ACHIEVEMENTS:**

**On a separate sheet, in narrative form, please include the following information:**

- A. Any elected or appointed posts, committee assignments, and any other union-related assignments the nominee has held in the local union and/or central labor council. Indicate dates and lengths of service whenever possible.
- B. Any present or past memberships/affiliations the nominee has with community organizations. List dates and length of service whenever possible and indicate any elected or appointed posts or committee assignments held within those organizations.
- C. A detailed description of the nominee's activities and justification for receiving this award.

**Wisconsin State AFL-CIO**  
**PROJECT AWARD**  
**NOMINATION FORM**

**NOTE:** You may make more than one nomination. Please make extra copies as necessary including one for your records. Submit to: Community Services Project Award, c/o Ann M. McNeary, 2059 Atwood Avenue, Madison, WI, 53704. The deadline for nominations is March 06, 2024.

**NAME OF PROJECT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ORGANIZATION:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please supply the following information regarding the contact person. This person may be contacted to verify the scope and extent of the union's **volunteer** activities and therefore should be familiar with the **volunteer** involvement/accomplishments for which the project is being nominated.

**CONTACT PERSON:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ (Daytime) ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ (Evening)

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOMINATOR:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)

One of the lead organizations being nominated must be affiliated with the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO. [If applicable, please list other union or community partners who collaborated on the project.] Affiliates may nominate their own projects. This form must be signed by an officer of the nominating organization.

Name and Title of Officer: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ (Daytime) ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ (Evening)

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY:** On a separate sheet, in narrative form, describe what the project was designed to accomplish and how the community benefited as a result.

Describe the degree of participation by union members, what makes the project unique, and how the project will continue to develop in the future. Include any news articles, letters of commendation, and video tapes - if deemed appropriate.