



COPAL NEWS



NUMBER 10

We share the latest news for and by our community!

Dear community,

It was a year of many achievements and learning. Every day we make COPAL a stronger organization connected to the community. The report that we are placing in your hands exemplifies a small part of the work carried out in 2022. In addition, it offers our action plan for 2023.

The successes that COPAL continues to reap are the result of the wisdom and direction offered by the members of the board of directors, the hundreds of members and volunteers who passionately dedicate hours of their lives for the cause, and the effort and creativity of the staff. We invite you to join.

Our special thanks to our contributors, individuals, and foundations, whose investment helps advance our mission. We invite you to continue contributing to the cause to achieve a better standard of living for our entire community. Thank you for allowing us to reach your homes and we wish you a year 2023 full of happiness. For a more inclusive Minnesota, with you in the fight.

[Read the annual report here](#)

We welcome Natalia to the team!



Natalia Vera joined the team as a Storytelling and Media Relations Specialist. Natalia was born in Chile and moved to Minnesota in 2018. Since graduating in audiovisual communication in Chile, her passion for writing has been advancing her professional career, navigating different types of writing to tell a story, such as screenplays, literature, and reports. She is convinced that a good story can convey inspiration, change, and empathy; it is important to share this powerful knowledge with the Latino community in Minnesota. We are excited to welcome her to the team!

Want to participate in leadership development and decision-making at COPAL?

Grow your impact by [becoming a member today!](#)



EL CAMBIO COMIENZA AQUÍ:
UN DÍA DE ACCIÓN EN EL CAPITOLIO DE MINNESOTA

3 ENE 2023 11AM-3PM

LUGAR DE ENCUENTRO: CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
105 UNIVERSITY AVE. W SAINT PAUL, 55103.

Nos reuniremos y desde aquí marcharemos juntos al Capitolio.

REGÍSTRESE AQUÍ

- Atención médica para todos
- Dignidad de los trabajadores
- Justicia Ambiental
- Inmigración y Seguridad Pública
- Democracia Popular

Esta acción coincide con el lanzamiento de la Campaña de **45 Días de COPAL** para aprobar una legislación que restaure el **acceso a las licencias de conducir** para todos, incluida la comunidad indocumentada.

MINNESOTA LICENCIAS PARA TODOS

[Register here](#)

We remind you to start the year with a day of action: “Change starts here”. We call on our state legislature to fight for:

- Health Care for All
- Workers' Dignity
- environmental justice
- Immigration and Public Safety
- People's Democracy

During this day of action, we will be hosting our 45 Day Campaign to demand the passage of legislation that restores access to driver's licenses for all, including the undocumented community.

The lack of access to a driver's license in MN for the undocumented community jeopardizes everyone's safety. We require licenses for everyone no

Health and Wellness

The Health and Wellness team continued to advance vaccination against COVID-19 and influenza during the past month by coordinating 5 community vaccination clinics where 173 people were vaccinated against COVID-19 and 88 against influenza.

The COPAL team was present at:

- the Health Fair at Riverview Apartments in conjunction with Health on the Go in the City of Brooklyn Park
- Wattonwan County Library in St James
- the Plaza del Sol in St. Paul
- Shared Spaces in Mankato
- The Primero de Mayo Workers' Center in Minneapolis

We would like to thank M Health Fairview, Open Door, Health on the Go, Alzheimer's Association, Community-University Health Care Center (CUHCC) Domestic Violence Program, and HACER for working together to bring services and resources to our community.

With the proximity of holidays and family celebrations, we want to remind you to protect yourself and also children, grandparents and the most vulnerable in the family.

Contact the COPAL navigators at (612) 249-8736 if you have questions about immunizations, looking for a place to get one, or available resources.



Some recommendations:

- Get vaccinated with the updated booster against COVID-19 (omicron bivalent booster) if you haven't yet
- Get a rapid test if you have symptoms like fever, cough, or congestion
 - You can order free rapid tests [here](#)
 - You can pick up the COPAL Minneapolis and Mankato offices
- Stay home if you feel sick
- Continue to wear a mask in public places

Resources



Find a Vaccination Clinic

[MORE INFORMATION](#)



Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine

[MORE INFORMATION](#)



How to Talk About COVID-19 Vaccines

[MORE INFORMATION](#)



Myths and Facts about the Vaccine

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Visit our [website](#) for more resources.

Civic Participation and Leadership



During the 2022 electoral cycle, hundreds of affiliates pledged to vote for candidates aligned with COPAL's political platform. We use this political platform to encourage people to run in support of causes including Driver's Licenses for All, Healthcare for All, and environmental justice. Of the 20 candidates who ran endorsed by COPAL members, 17 won their elections!

Now that we've won a progressive majority, our political platform is turning to a [state legislative agenda](#). Legislation that aligns with the political values of COPAL members includes the Minnesota Health Plan and COPAL's own [Frontline Communities Protection Act](#), an environmental justice bill. Of course, our top priority this session is to [demand that the state act on its generational debt to our community by restoring access to driver's licenses](#). For this reason, we have launched the "45-Day Campaign" demanding immediate political action on licenses.

We have two actions for you to ramp up our advocacy efforts in the coming month:

1. [Sign](#) our petition in support of Driver's Licenses for All within 45 days of the start of the legislative session
2. [Register](#) for COPAL's Day of Action at the Capitol to elevate our legislative agenda on Tuesday, January 3, 2023

We hope you will join us in achieving key policy changes to improve the quality of life for Latinos, immigrants, and Minnesotans of color.

South Central Initiative

In November, the COPAL South Center initiative, together with the support of the Department of Health, Homeland Health Specialists and Open Door Health Center, held two COVID-19 vaccination and resource events in the cities of Mankato and St. James with 68 doses administered.

COPAL continues to work on building relationships and highlighting the leadership of the Latino community in rural areas. This month COPAL and the Welcome Communities Project Design team held their monthly virtual session "Data and the power of social connections" for the city of Glencoe. We also participated in the community partner appreciation event held by Open Door Health Center Clinic, where we had fun decorating a door under this year's theme "Always an open door to healthcare access." This door is in the Open Door Christmas tree at the Kiwanis Holiday Lights event, Mankato's Sibley Park.

If you are interested in joining the regional committee, please click [here](#).



Now everyone 5 and older can receive an updated booster against the omicron variant.

Mental Health Resources

[If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, please contact the MN Mental Health](#)

Crisis Line: **CRISIS or **274747. Dial from your cell phone and you will be connected to your county crisis team.

[Check out the following summary of dental, general health and mental health services that the Minnesota](#)

Department of Health has compiled at the lowest cost or at scale. Look at the column that specifies if they have interpreters or people who speak Spanish.

[Click here for low-cost health resources](#)

Environmental Justice



The environmental justice mural on which COPAL worked together with environmental activists and artists was completed. You can view it at the PYC School located at 2210 Oliver Avenue North in Minneapolis.

With the 2022 elections, the Democratic Farmer-Labor Party (DFL) now has control of the state chamber, the senate and the governor's office for the first time in a decade. Last spring, the divided legislature wrangled over a number of different bills and priorities, ultimately achieving little. A DFL trifecta opens up many opportunities to promote environmental justice and critical investments in sustainable community development. This means there is a tremendous opportunity for the state to invest in our communities and pass spending bills to address a variety of issues. As organizers and community members, we must hold our elected officials accountable to spend this money appropriately and invest in creating a better future for all of us.

There will be a number of great opportunities coming up to combine this new federal funding with matching state money, and we will need a big push from COPAL members to make sure that happens.

One of the prominent environmental justice bills is the Cumulative Impacts Bill, a piece of legislation sponsored by COPAL. This bill would greatly redefine the regulatory process and provide additional protections for communities already overburdened by pollution, to ensure more pollution is not added. We will be actively pushing this bill into the 2023 session, so stay tuned for more updates and action alerts!

COPAL demands the right to clean air and water for BIPOC communities across the state.

We at COPAL are able to do this work because of your support.

[Donate today](#) to increase opportunities and foster dignified living for Latinxs in Minnesota!

Radio Jornalera MN

Radio Jornalera has grown to now five weekly shows every weekday and our daily morning show, El Jornal de la Alegría with Mike Castillo every weekday from 7 to 10 AM. Tune in [here](#) or [download the app](#).



We're hiring!

Want to make a difference in the community? We are hiring! We are looking for committed employees for the following position:

- [Senior Organizer Manager](#)
- [Environmental Justice Manager](#)

In solidarity,
COPAL

If you liked this newsletter, share it so others can read it!

[Subscribe here](#)

Established in 2018, COPAL is a member-based organization leading social impact initiatives to improve the quality of life for Latin American families. This is done by building collective power, transforming systems and creating opportunities for a dignified life.

To shape the vision for an inclusive Minnesota, COPAL is advocating for a legislative agenda that advances issues that impact the lives of Latinos in Minnesota including healthcare for all, dignity for workers, environmental justice, popular democracy and immigration and public safety, which includes establishing Licenses for all.