

VOLUME

3

OCTOBER 22 2024



COPAL NEWS

NUMBER 10

COPAL CELEBRATES ANNUAL GALA, MANKATO THIRD ANNIVERSARY, NEW EVENTS AND MORE!

As October comes to a close, with leaves falling and a time for reflection upon us, we invite you to join us in celebrating our recent achievements and embracing the opportunities this season brings.

WE WANT TO THANK YOU FOR JOINING US AT THE GALA!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who attended and supported our event. Bringing together our staff, members, partners, and supporters for this gala marked a significant milestone for us. COPAL has grown transforming into a statewide organization capable of driving meaningful change, enhancing our members' leadership skills, and making Minnesota a welcoming and inclusive place for all.

As Patricia Torres Ray stated, "When I see the staff from COPAL advocating for workers and their families at the State Capitol, when I see them training people about their rights and traveling around the state to inform communities about new opportunities, I also think about the significant challenges they face. COPAL does not have access to millions for advocacy and lobbying, but COPAL has you, and me, and this big family. I argue that our collective voices and our votes are more powerful."

The night was truly memorable, not only because of the inspiring words from our speakers but also due to the support and energy you brought. Your support is essential to our successes alongside our communities. Thank you for believing in us and for being part of our journey!



COPAL celebrating their annual gala "Dignity and Democracy"
[You can see more photos from the evening here.](#)

WWW.COPALMN.ORG



DIGNITY AND DEMOCRACY 2024 GALA



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17TH 2024





At **Radio Jornalera**, we are thrilled to
announce that we're
GIVING AWAY TICKETS
to the
ANA GABRIEL

concert at **Target Center** in MN on
November 9th at 8 p.m.!



To participate, simply follow the instructions on the social media pages of COPAL, Centro de Trabajadores, and Radio Jornalera MN. Don't miss the chance to be part of this unique experience.

[Click the link](#) and join in now. Good luck!





SOUTHEAST INITIATIVE ROCHESTER, MN

Our team at COPAL Rochester is dedicated to supporting community members seeking guidance on immigration issues, job assistance, and navigating medical bills and driver's licenses by connecting individuals with the appropriate resources and professionals. Each month, we host a free vaccination event and actively engage with the community to listen to their concerns and provide information.



Foto de la sesión de escucha comunitaria en la oficina de Rochester

On October 26, we will provide the updated COVID-19 and flu vaccines, along with information from *Contigo LifePath Counseling LLC* about their counseling and therapy services. We also want to share that we were invited to the Mobile Mexican Consulate in Austin, where we provided resources on driver's licenses and the opportunity to take the theoretical exam at our office.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that we now offer the theoretical exam for obtaining a Minnesota driver's license at our Rochester office every Saturday. For more events, please check [here](#).

We encourage community members to join our [regional members' committee](#), which meets monthly to improve systems and promote equality, justice, and prosperity for Latine families.





SOUTH CENTRAL INITIATIVE MANKATO, MN

In September, we celebrated the third anniversary of COPAL's South Central Initiative with the event "Celebrating Victories, Dignifying Lives," which was attended by more than 40 people, including community leaders and members.



During this event, we shared knowledge with community partners who have been essential to COPAL's vision in the South Central region of Minnesota. Additionally, the leadership team presented the victories achieved and the call to action for the construction of Latino Center for Community Engagement (LCCE). There were testimonies about the ITIN campaign, "One Economy for Minnesota", y más. Thank you for all your support!





HEALTH AND WELLNESS

In September, we joined the Latino Fest in Rochester, where we set up a resource table to share information about our programs in Southeast Minnesota. We engaged with the community about climate change and its impact on our health and distributed emergency kits. We also had games and prizes for children and visitors.

Additionally, we collaborated with Tri-Valley Head Start on September 26, bringing vaccines and resources to the community of Owatonna, where we administered 33 vaccines for Covid-19 and the flu.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Vaccination in Your Community



Thursday, October 24, 2024
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM CT



St. Peter Community Free Clinic,
201 S 3rd St, Saint Peter,
MN 56082

Healthy Eating



Saturday, October 26, 2024
5:00 PM - 7:30 PM CT



COPAL MN - ROCHESTER, 1210
7th St NW Ste 216, Rochester,
MN 55901

Building a Healthy Community



Saturday, November 2, 2024
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM CT



Shared Spaces, 212 E Walnut St Ste 2,
Mankato, MN 56001

We look forward to seeing you! For more information about these events or to find other community events in your area, please contact our navigators at (612) 249-8736 or search for more [here](#).





ORGANIZING

COPAL has reached a significant milestone by surpassing 100,000 calls to Latine voters in Minnesota as part of our ongoing efforts to ensure eligible voters are engaged, informed, and ready to participate in the upcoming elections. Our outreach campaign, led by a dedicated team of staff and volunteers, has focused on providing essential information about voter registration, polling locations, and the importance of local races. COPAL's expanded voter outreach



campaign will continue through Election Day.

"By setting a new goal of 150,000 calls, we aim to further mobilize and empower eligible Latino voters to make their voices heard on November 5." said Ryan Perez, COPAL's Organizing Director.

For more insights on local efforts to support immigrant access to the polls, check out this article.

CENTRO DE TRABAJADORES PRIMERO DE MAYO

What Have We Done?

- In September, we concluded our health and safety workshops, with successful sessions held in Minneapolis and Rochester.
- We have been offering orientations before the theoretical license test, averaging about 20 participants per session.
- These talks are conducted twice a week and one Sunday a month, helping more workers succeed in their exams.
- During the recent citizenship fair, 17 individuals received assistance with their applications and signed up for classes, while one person registered for the GED.

We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who made the recent citizenship fair possible, organized in collaboration with the Immigrant Law Center and Normandale College. Their support and participation were vital in providing valuable resources to our community.

Additionally, we are raising awareness in the community about the new Earned Sick and Safe Time (ESST) law. Our aim is to educate workers about their rights and promote stable employment, ensuring that everyone is aware of their benefits and responsibilities.

Call to Action!

We need more volunteers for the citizenship class and to assist during the theoretical license exams. Your involvement can make a significant difference in the lives of those seeking to advance in their citizenship process and professional development. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact our *Navigator Line* at (612) 249-8736.





ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

COPAL 2024 College Tour: Extractivism & Conflict in Latin America

As part of COPAL's environmental justice work, we organize annual college tours, where we bring a Latine guest from a community outside of Minnesota to speak about their experiences, leadership, and projects related to the environment, climate or any related issue. Our speaker spends a week in Minnesota, visiting and speaking at 5-7 colleges/universities across the state.

This year, we are honored to welcome Michael Wilson Becerril as our College Tour speaker! Michael brings a unique perspective and blend of academia and grassroots advocacy through his time in Mexico, Peru, Costa Rica, and Guyana. We will be visiting colleges in the metro area, Western, and Southern Minnesota touching on themes such as extractivism and conflict in Latin America, as well as the importance of civic engagement in ensuring our voices are heard!

If you want to be informed about our next outdoor event, sign up to receive [COPAL's Monthly EJ Newsletter!](#)



We at COPAL can do this work thanks to your support.



Make a donation to increase opportunities and foster a dignified life for Latinos in Minnesota!



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.

Please see the following summary of mental health, general health and dental services compiled by the Minnesota Department of Health for the lowest cost or at scale. Look at the column that specifies if they have interpreters or people who speak Spanish.

Low-cost healthcare resources



Radio Jornalera has grown and now has five weekly shows every day of the week and our daily morning show, **El Jornal de la Alegría** with Mike Castillo every weekday from 7 to 10am.



Tune in here



Download the app.



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



SUBSCRIBE



COPAL

WWW.COPALMN.ORG

Established in 2018, COPAL is a member-based organization leading social impact initiatives to improve the quality of life for Latine families and communities. COPAL advocates for a legislative agenda and mobilizes the Latine community to take action on issues that impact their lives such as health care for all, dignity for workers, environmental justice, popular democracy, immigration and public safety, and education for all by building collective power, transforming systems, and creating opportunities for a dignified life. COPAL envisions a future where the Latine community thrives and is fully empowered to lead significant change in their communities and beyond.