

LAKE SUPERIOR SERVICE UNIT & IRON RANGE SERVICE UNIT PRESENT:

OVERNIGHTER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EVENT

WHEN

Friday, February 6, 2026

5:30-8:30 PM

Saturday, February 7th

7:30 AM—3:40 PM

WHERE

Holiday Inn Downtown Duluth

200 West 1st Street, Duluth MN

INCLUDED:

- ◆ Hotel (Friday night)
- ◆ Meals:
Friday Night-Dinner
Saturday-Breakfast & Lunch
- ◆ All Professional Development Courses
- ◆ Cash bar on Friday night

You are welcome to bring significant others/family members for the hotel stay and all meals.

Space is limited—Register by December 17th!

If you fail to attend this event or cancel within 48 hours, you will be responsible for the cost of the meal & any other costs incurred with your registration.

TO REGISTER:

OR SCAN THE QR CODE



[CLICK HERE](#)

FRIDAY ROUND TABLE OPTIONS:

- ◆ Presidents
- ◆ Negotiations
- ◆ Treasurers/Membership Contacts/Secretaries
- ◆ ESP's
- ◆ General Membership
- ◆ Retirement/Financial Planning

SATURDAY SESSIONS:

- ◆ Reading
- ◆ English Learners
- ◆ PBI (Positive Behavior Interventions and Accommodations/ Modifications)
- ◆ Suicide Prevention
- ◆ American Indian History and Culture
- ◆ Mental Health Issues for Adults
- ◆ Dismantling Ableism
- ◆ Finding a Work Life Balance: Boundaries, Burnout & Bubble baths
- ◆ Ask the Lawyer
- ◆ Introduction to Neuro Diversity

ESP Sessions

- ◆ The Power of a Union
- ◆ Contracts, Policies, Statutes - Understanding the structures and how to leverage the union to work within them
- ◆ "Nobody wants to do anything" - understanding engagement and using organizing tools to help engage members in new ways.
- ◆ Navigating tough membership conversations (dues, politics, member benefits/ rights)
- ◆ Creating an organizing plan that works - facilitated work time

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Teacher Sessions

Reading: Participants will review the research and exemplary practices that help students acquire strong reading comprehension skills.

English Learners: Learn to tap into the strengths the English Learners bring to your class. Discover strategies for differentiation and scaffolding to support their work as they progress through stages of language acquisition.

PBI (Positive Behavior Interventions & Accommodations/Modifications): This session focuses on effective strategies that lead to increased student engagement and achievement.

Suicide Prevention: This session will focus on best practices in the area of suicide prevention. Due to the sensitive nature of this training, facilitators will be licensed practitioners in mental health and/or highly trained and qualified with expertise in suicide prevention.

American Indian History and Culture: This training will address: key concepts and terminology including tribal sovereignty, tribal nation, American Indian, and indigenous; The Dakota and Ojibwe peoples' relationship with Minnesota, and their unique and distinct cultural heritages and sovereignty; and the laws that govern how Minnesota teachers, schools, and districts work with the 11 Tribal Nations that share geography with the state of Minnesota. This training meets the following statute requirements: "Subd. 7. American Indian history and culture. The Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board must adopt rules that require all licensed teachers renewing their license under sections 122A.181 to 122A.184 to include in the renewal requirements professional development in the cultural heritage and contemporary contributions of American Indians, with particular emphasis on Minnesota Tribal Nations."

Mental Health Issues for Adults: Educators perform a hard job, often under scrutiny and with many students depending on them. When our members experience mental illness or experience a mental health crisis, what can we do to recognize this and respond with as much help as possible? What protections do our members have, and what resources are available to them? This session will explore those issues.

Dismantling Ableism: Ableism is rooted in the belief that typical abilities are superior and results in discrimination and social prejudice against people with disabilities. Subtle and obvious forms of ableism prevent people with disabilities from fully accessing equitable spaces and opportunities. Participants will learn the definition of ableism, how it shows up, examples of inclusive language, and develop methods to redress ableist systems and practices from an individual to a systems level.

Finding a Work Life Balance: Boundaries, Burnout & Bubble baths: This session will focus on: • Boundaries: Setting them and keeping them. • Stress: Acknowledging good and bad in work and personal life and what to do. • Burnout: Prevention strategies and self-care practice

Ask the Lawyer: Join one of the Education Minnesota attorneys as we review current legal issues, discuss recent legislation affecting educators, and answer your burning legal questions. Even if you've attended before, we'll have new questions to test your knowledge of the legal issues impacting educators.

Introduction to Neuro Diversity: Neurodiversity refers to the range of differences in individual brain function and behavioral traits, regarded as part of the normal variation in the human population. While a number of attributes fall under the neurodiverse umbrella, this course focuses primarily on supporting students with autism spectrum disorder and attention-deficit/ hyperactivity disorder, the processes by which students receive support in school, identifying characteristics, intersectionality, teaching strategies, and resources for further learning.

ESP Sessions

The Power of a Union: At its core, union power comes from organized people. In this session, we'll explore what it means to build collective strength by connecting our own "why" to the bigger picture. Through stories, discussion, and inspiring videos, participants will reflect on their self-interest in having a powerful union and leave with a deeper sense of how their own engagement fuels change.

Contracts, Policies, Statutes - Understanding the structures and how to leverage the union to work within them: Contracts, policies, and laws all shape our day-to-day working conditions, but they aren't the same—and they don't carry the same weight. In this session we'll break down the differences between contracts, school board policies, and state/federal statutes (including PELRA), and explore how unions leverage each of these structures to protect members' rights and improve conditions. Participants will leave knowing how to use their contract as a tool and where union power fits into the bigger picture.

"Nobody wants to do anything" - understanding engagement and using organizing tools to help engage members in new ways: What does engagement really mean in a local? In this session we'll move beyond frustration and take a closer look at how locals create (or miss) opportunities for members to get involved. Together we'll define engagement, assess the kinds of opportunities your local currently offers, and explore how better meetings, constituency group events, and issue-based committees can spark new energy. Participants will leave with concrete ideas for building meaningful on-ramps to union participation.

Navigating tough membership conversations (dues, politics, member benefits/rights): Conversations about joining the union or staying engaged often bring up hard questions: "Why should I pay dues?" "I don't agree with union politics." "What do I really get from being a member?" In this workshop we'll practice navigating these tough conversations with empathy and confidence. Using role-play and coaching, participants will leave with concrete strategies to handle common concerns while building stronger relationships with coworkers.

Creating an organizing plan that works - facilitated work time: It's one thing to talk about organizing—it's another to put it into action. In this session, participants will roll up their sleeves and start building an organizing plan for their own local. With facilitation, templates, and peer support, each team will identify goals, map leaders and worksites, and outline steps that fit their local's reality. You'll walk out with a concrete plan you can bring home and use right away.