

2024 MPELRA SUMMER CONFERENCE

HYBRID CONFERENCE – AUGUST 7-9, 2024

IN-PERSON: Cragun's, Brainerd, MN

VIRTUAL: VIA TEAMS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7

11:00 am Registration Desk Opens

Lunch will be provided by Cragun's in the Lakeside Dining Room beginning at 11:00 am.

Virtual link will be sent in advance, as well as technology tips for the best virtual experience.

12:15 pm Welcome

Jenn Worthington, MPELRA President, DHS, Merit System Director, State of Minnesota

12:30 – 2:30 pm Keynote, Optimize with

Optimism, Kristen Ziman Flip the switch from negativity to positivity in simple yet effective ways that can immediately disarm any situation and leave you and others feeling empowered. *Kristen Ziman, Retired Chief of Police, Aurora, IL*

2:30 – 2:45 pm Break

2:45 – 4:30 pm - Arbitrator Panel

Back by Popular Demand! The world is changing and so are the arbitrator lists. Get to know some of the arbitrators on the list and ask some questions about their perspective on discipline, hearings, contract language, you name it!

Arbitrators Patrick Kelly, Frank Kundrat, Sarah Lewerenz, Michael Locanto, Nancy Miller-Levin, Kristi Paulson

4:30 pm – Check-in to Hotel

5:00 – 7:00 pm – Golf Mixer and Gull Lake Cruise options available

7:00 - 9:00 pm Outdoor reception on the Sun Deck with appetizers (weather permitting – indoor option available)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8

7:30 – 8:30 am Breakfast, Lakeside Dining Room

8:30 – 8:45 am **Greetings & Welcome from the National PELRA President** *Jenna Richardson, Tacoma, Washington, NPELRA president*

8:45 – 10:15 am AI for HR/LR Professionals:

Leveraging Artificial Intelligence to Enhance HR and Labor Relations Practices.

Join us for an insightful session exploring the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the realm of Human Resources and Labor Relations. This program is designed to provide HR professionals with an understanding of AI technologies and their applications in various HR and LR processes. *Dana Bartocci, Human Resources and Development Director, Minnesota Judicial Branch & Jim Jorstad, Director of Labor Relations at Minnesota State Colleges and Universities*

10:15 – 10:30 am Break

10:15 – 11:45 am State Family Medical Leave

Starting Jan. 1, 2026, Minnesota's Paid Leave program will provide job protections and partial wage replacement to workers who need time off work to care for themselves or a family member. In this session, you'll learn how the program is being designed and implemented. You'll also gain a better understanding of the critical role employers play in the program's success, including funding the program with employees; providing critical information to your workforce; coordinating employer-sponsored benefits; and helping employees transition back to work. *Greg Norfleet, State of MN Paid Leave Program Director*

11:45 – 1:00 pm Lunch in the Lakeside Dining Room

1:00 – 2:00pm Recent Developments

Mike Stockstead from the Bureau of Mediation Services will provide an update on recent

mediation and arbitration trends happening in Minnesota. He will discuss the BMS organizational structure, available programs (mediation and arbitration), recent legislative changes, and pre-negotiation training to hopefully improve the negotiation process for both management and union and lower the temperature at the bargaining table. Mike will also provide data on what the BMS has been seeing related to Notices of Intent to Strike, Length of Strikes in the State, and paths to resolution. *Mike Stockstead, Mediator, Bureau of Mediation Services*

2:00 – 2:15 pm **Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) Update.** Update on PERB operations, practices and minor changes to the relevant statutes. *Martin D. Munic, PERB Representative of Public Employers, Lockridge Grindal Nauen PLLP - Of Counsel*

2:15 - 2:30 pm **Awards**

2:30 - 2:45 pm **Break**

2:45 – 4:00 pm **You're the Negotiator.** When the time comes to make decisions at the bargaining table you want to be prepared for proposals that address contract language. With a mix of examples, we'll explore the subtleties of contract language, the careful foresight needed for potential changes, and the power of preparation. We'll work together in an interactive session that develops examples of contract language while avoiding unexpected pitfalls. Master the art of strategic thinking when you're handling language as a negotiator. *Holland Atkinson, Director of Labor Relations, Hennepin County*

6:00 - 8:00 pm **Outdoor Barbeque on the North Beach with Bonfire to follow until 10 pm**

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9

8:00 – 9:00 am **Breakfast in the Lakeside Dining Room**

9:00 – 10:00 am **Labor and Employment Legislative Update.** This legislative session saw

many bills related to worker rights, collective bargaining, and employee benefits, many with direct impacts on public employers. Bills were proposed (and many were passed) including a new required holiday to recognize Juneteenth, earned sick and safe time requirements, reinstatement, and funding of the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB), paid family and medical leave, adult-use cannabis, and labor legislation to expand the bargainable conditions and access rights of bargaining units. Join this session to learn what became law, what did not become law, and how it impacts public employers. *Matt Hilgart, AMC*

10:00 – 10:30 am **Break/Checkout**

10:30- 12:00 pm **Resilience - Bringing it to life for HR/LR Professionals.** We all talk about it. We try to help others find it, but what about us? With the unions and customers demanding our attention, how do we keep on keeping on? Learn a resilience model and three simple strategies to take back to your office to create a more resilient you! *Heather Mortensen, PhD, LP, SKS Consulting Group*

12:00 pm
Conference Close
Thank You For attending!



Future MPELRA Conferences

February 13, 2025 - Winter Conference
Crowne Plaza Minneapolis West, Plymouth, MN

August 6-8, 2025 – Summer Conference
Inn on Lake Superior Duluth, MN

February 5, 2026 - Winter Conference
Crowne Plaza Minneapolis West, Plymouth, MN

August 5-7, 2026 – Summer Conference
Wood Lake Meeting Center, Rochester, MN

February 4, 2027 - Winter Conference
Crowne Plaza Minneapolis West, Plymouth, MN

February 3, 2028 - Winter Conference
Crowne Plaza Minneapolis West, Plymouth, MN



Future National PELRA Conferences

June 22-26, 2025 - Portland, OR
April 19-22, 2026 - Charlotte, NC
April 11-14, 2027 - Fort Worth, TX
April 9-12, 2028- San Diego, CA

August 7-9, 2024
Cragun's Resort on Gull Lake
11000 Craguns Drive Brainerd, MN 56401

2024 MPELRA SUMMER CONFERENCE

REGISTRATION: Click [HERE](#) to register via National PELRA.

- ✓ Expert-led sessions and conference handouts
- ✓ Breakfasts, snacks, and lunches
- ✓ Wednesday night golf event or boat cruise and after-hours reception event
 - Register the number of guests you'd like to bring when completing your conference registration. Only \$25 per guest for the events, outdoor reception, and drinks
- ✓ Thursday evening reception

If you have any problem with your conference registration, please contact National PELRA team at customerservice@npelra.org (Courtney) or educate@npelra.org (Kelsia); 858-299-3150 x200 or x300.

MEMBER

Virtual conference rate (must be registered by 7/31/24).....\$150
In-person conference Early Bird rate (by 7/12/24)\$250
Standard In-person Rate (on/after 7/13/24)\$350

NON-MEMBER

(Must be eligible for membership per National PELRA by-laws.)
Virtual conference rate (must be registered by 7/31/24).....\$350
Standard In-person Rate\$450

All registration options will close on 7/31/2024 and no late registrations will be allowed!

If you are a non-member, please consider joining! Membership information and application can be found [here](#).

Cancellation: A \$50 administrative fee will be charged for all cancellations. **All cancellations received after 8/2/24 are non-refundable.** No-shows are non-refundable. One registration transfer is allowed per registration. Any transfers must have the same membership status or fees will be adjusted accordingly. All cancellation requests must be emailed in writing to educate@npelra.org

LODGING

Make your lodging arrangements by clicking [here](#) or by calling Cragun's and noting your MPELRA attendance. Reserved lodging is limited and the MPELRA room block will be released on **6/24/24**. The lodging rate is \$259.00, plus tax. If you want to stay the weekend, work directly with the hotel and ask for the discounted weekend rate available 3 days before and 3 days after our conference (if staying after you must stay a minimum of 2 nights). Cancellation fees may apply.