

SEIU Local 26 Staff Leadership Team:



Iris Altamirano (Secretary Treasurer) Iris is the proud daughter of an immigrant janitor. Her mother migrated from Mexico and met her father, a 5th generation Tejano, who served in the Army. At age 9, Iris began to work in the hot Texas fields, pulling weeds out of the cotton, to help make ends meet. Iris recalls a conversation with her mother in the fields. Her mother said, "This is what awaits you if you do not study, mi'ja." Iris responded "I will study, mami." With laser-like focus to make it to "a good school," Iris graduated from an Cornell University with a degree in City and Regional Planning in 2002. This trajectory, inspired a lifetime dedicated to justice, including many years experience in leading fights at SEIU Local 26 including serving as a Representative in the Member Resource Center, Union Organizer, and Political Director. Iris made it back to the local in 2018 after taking some time off to focus on her two beautiful children and husband. Iris is

incredibly honored to serve our strong diverse membership as President beginning June 2019.



Greg Nammacher (Chief of Staff) was born and raised in Minneapolis. Greg has over 22 years of professional organizing experience for racial and economic justice: in churches, mosques, community organizations, and since 2006, at SEIU Local 26. He has co-chaired bargaining, and served in many staff and elected roles, but none more important than helping to lead the many strikes our members have won.

Cynthia Gomez (Director of Internal Organizing) went from a rank-and-file janitor, became a steward organizing her own worksite, and was part of the executive board member functioning as vice president before finally coming on staff as an organizer in 2015. She has led the janitorial division since 2017, including the one day strike for janitors during the last contract cycle.



Belinda Monica Mendez (Member Resources Director) is our most senior member. She started out as a "Lost Timer," in 2002 to work on Paul Wellstone Campaign. In 2003 joined local staff and since has worn multiple hats including: External Organizer, Receptionist and Administrative Assistant, Representative, Assistant to the President, and Office Administrator. Belinda Monica brings her incredible knowledge of past practice and willingness to fight with laser like focus aimed at enforcing our Collective Bargaining Agreements.



Sara Lopez (Political Director) previously worked as a Senior Policy Aide for two City of Minneapolis Council Vice-Presidents, CM Elizabeth Glidden and CM Andrea Jenkins. In her role as Political Director, Sara facilitates public policy initiatives and leads the development of policymaker-union relations. With a background in community organizing and economic development, Sara builds partnerships with organizations, businesses and government entities. She holds a bachelor's degree in History from Carleton College and is bilingual in Spanish and English.

Alisha Volante (Director of Strategic Research & Communications) was born and raised in Minneapolis under the tutelage of a strong black activist mother. Volante attended her first protest in 1984 in the Whittier neighborhood when the crime rate was dizzying for residents. She grew up in the fight for justice. Alisha conducted her graduate work at the University of Minnesota College of Liberal Arts; her studies include U.S. history, Minnesota history, public history, and U.S. race relations. Her broad experience in research and communications includes work with Twin Cities Public Television, The Minnesota Historical Society, Minneapolis Public Schools, and Minnesotans for a Fair Economy, among others.



Abraham Misgina (Airport Organizing Lead) was worked as electrician in Ethiopian and Eritrea and now works for Airport workers rights. Abraham was a janitor and Local 26 member for many years before joining the staff as organizer in 2011, where he lead the organizing of over 1000 new members.

Fred Anthony II (Security Organizing Lead) is a member of the first generation of Security Officers at Local 26 who brings 15 years of private security experience (8 as a rank and file member), as well as numerous years of Union organizing at two SEIU Locals. He's joined his brothers and sisters in going out on strike twice (the only strikes by Officers in the country), and taken part in civil disobedience arrests all in order to win some of the best security contracts in the country and help raise the standards of the industry

