

# GOLDEN LODGE NEWS

Volume 68, No. 4

April 2021

## Pat Eslich elected Golden Lodge president

In a crowded race for Golden Lodge president, seven candidates squared off. Pat Eslich beat all contenders with a ballot count of 208. A busy contest for vice president listed four candidates, one who had held the position prior. Curtis Green won with 250 ballots cast and will serve in that role for the next three years.

Two candidates vied for the office of Recording Secretary with Carrie Holland winning easily with 362 votes. Joe Plott was unopposed for Treasurer and continues in that role for another term. Christopher Johnson was elected by acclamation and will be new to the Financial Secretary's responsibilities.

Another two-way contest for Inside Guard resulted in Chad Steiner winning with a tally of 282 and returning to that office. Guide Trish Hostetler was kept in place by acclamation and Dave Elkins was also unopposed for Outside Guard. Trustees Scott Mathie, Sean Els and Shawn Lindner were returned to their duties by acclamation.

The Grievance Committees for the three steel plants were all filled by acclamation yet still required a vote to determine Chairmen. The Chairman is the committeeman with the most votes who is not, already elected to the Executive Board by virtue of another Officer position. Mike Poole was elected for FSP, Nathan McCray HSP and Jose "Joe" Pena GSP. Bryan Brawn was the only nominee for GRP Grievance Committee.

The position of Unit President for Local 1123-04 (Bearing) was another two-way race with Joe Plott coming out ahead with 21 votes and returning to that office. Debbie Westfall was returned, by acclamation, to her office of Local 1123-01 Unit Chair (Credit Union) and Robbi Yoe was unopposed for her positions of Local 1123-01 Unit Secretary and Unit Griever.

Negotiator contests for FSP, HSP and GSP highlighted two, three and four candidates, respectively. Mike Poole won FSP, Scott Mathie HSP and Jose "Joe" Pena GSP. The negotiator position for GRP had no nominations.

Special thanks goes out to the Tellers who volunteered for an essential service to the Golden Lodge. It was a long day with scant benefits. Thank you, Jeff Spurrier (Teller Chairman), Robert Taylor, Raymond Taylor, Pat Smith, Josh Adams, and Erik Houk. Your commitment enables the democratic process of election. Also, our gratitude goes out to the three members of the Golden Lodge Safety Committee who worked to assure proper COVID 19 guidelines were followed. Tom Dowling, Shane Sickafoose and Don Adams. Thank you all!

582 ballots were cast, which is nearly 36% of eligible voters, an increase from 34% in 2018. Congratulations to the winners and appreciation to all the candidates and Golden Lodge members who voted. Full election results are listed on page 4.



*The challenges of holding an election while observing COVID 19 safety protocols were handled well by the Election Committee*

## Workers Memorial Day 2021

Fifty years ago on April 28, Workers Memorial Day, the Occupational Safety and Health Act went into effect, promising every worker the right to a safe job.

The law was won because of the tireless efforts of the labor movement, which organized for safer working conditions and demanded government action. Unions and our allies have fought hard to make that promise a reality; winning protections that have made jobs safer and saved lives.

But our work is not done. Each year, thousands of workers are killed and millions suffer injury or illness because of dangerous working conditions.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the inextricable link between workplace safety and health and our communities. The virus has killed more than 500,000 people in this country so far, devastating working families, with a disproportionate impact on people of color.

Unions and our allies stepped up to demand and win job protections from this highly contagious virus. We organized for safe jobs and the right to speak out against unsafe working conditions. We demanded access to the ventilation, respirators and other measures that protect workers from inhaling the virus at work. Given the lack of federal action, unions won protections in states and held state and local leaders accountable.

Organized labor and our allies were key to strengthening job safety to save lives.

### **WORKER SAFETY AND WORKERS' VOICE GO HAND IN HAND**

The popularity of unions is at 65%, one of the highest marks since the OSH Act was implemented in 1971 and 60 million non-union workers say they would vote for a voice on the job today.

That is why America's labor movement is leading the campaign to pass the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, which would give all workers who want to form a union a fair path to do so.

Strong unions hold employers and the government accountable to keep workers safe. Strong unions raise the baseline level of job safety protections for all.



The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the lack of resources and accountability for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) to ensure workers are protected on the job, as well as the structural failures that have prevented workers from organizing for safer working conditions.

Workplace safety agencies have been hollowed out with a reduction in staff and a stagnant budget. Many workers never see OSHA in their workplace. Penalties are too low to be a deterrent. Workers are not adequately protected to speak out against unsafe working conditions and to join a union without retaliation.

As we look to the next 50 years of national worker protections, Congress must strengthen workplace safety agencies to renew their promise to working people, and issue life-saving protections against workplace violence, infectious diseases, heat illness, silica in mining and toxic chemicals; preventable hazards that kill tens of thousands of workers each year.

**On April 28, the USW and all unions of the AFL-CIO will observe Workers Memorial Day to remember those who have suffered and died on the job, and to renew the fight for safe jobs.**

We will mobilize to pass the PRO Act, so workers have a voice on the job. We will stand united to strengthen workers' rights and protections, and demand resources and actions needed for job safety enforcement. We will fight for the right of every worker to a safe job, until that promise is fulfilled.

Decades of struggle by working people and our unions have improved working conditions and made jobs safer, but it has not been enough.

This year we have an opportunity to strengthen our rights and protections, so everyone can come home safely at the end of a work shift, and without chronic illnesses from exposures at work.

As we grieve those we have lost from COVID-19 and other workplace hazards, we must continue to push forward. We must:

- Ensure that all workers have the necessary protections from COVID-19 at work.
- Pass the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act to ensure workers have a safety voice on the job and the right to freely form a union without employer interference or intimidation.
- Pass the Protecting America's Workers Act to provide OSHA protection to the millions of workers without it, stronger criminal and civil penalties for companies that seriously violate job safety laws, and improved anti-retaliation protections.
- Increase efforts to protect the safety and health of Black, Latino and immigrant workers, who are disproportionately affected and especially targeted for speaking up against unsafe working conditions.
- Increase the job safety budgets and improve job safety enforcement.
- Win new protections on workplace violence, silica exposure in mining, heat illness, exposure to asbestos and other toxic chemicals, and other hazards.
- Defend hard-won safety and health protections and workers' rights from attacks.

## You are invited to a Zoom webinar

When: Apr 28, 2021 01:00 PM Eastern Time  
(US and Canada)

Topic: Hall of Fame CLC /USW 1123  
Worker Memorial Day

Zoom meeting ID  
862 297 41489

Or Telephone:  
Dial:  
USA 816 423 4261 US Toll  
USA 888 844 9904 US Toll-free  
Conference code: 929064

## GOLDEN LODGE NEWS

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Scott Mathie, Trustee

Shawn Lindner, Trustee

Sean Els, Trustee

Trish Hostetler, Guide

Brock McDevitt, Outside Guard

Chad Steiner, Inside Guard

Published monthly, except July, by the United Steelworkers, Golden Lodge Local 1123, AFL-CIO, in the interest of its members and to further the aims and programs of the Union. USW Local 1123 represents the bargaining unit workers at the Canton, Gambinus, and Faircrest plants of The Timken Company, Timken-Steel Corp., and the Golden Circle Credit Union.

USW Golden Lodge Local 1123

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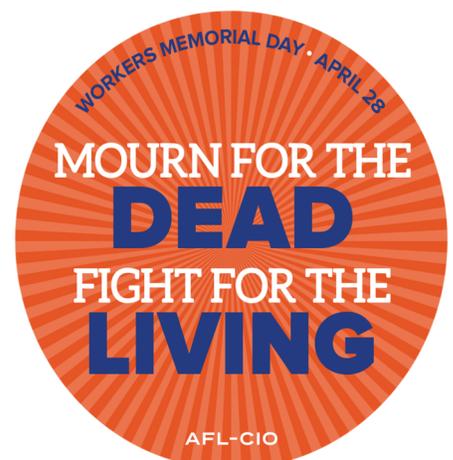
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# USW Local 1123 The Golden Lodge 2021 Officers Election Results

## Local 1123 President (1 to be elected)

<b>Pat Eslich</b>	<b>208</b>
<b>Barry Allison</b>	<b>108</b>
<b>Bob Harper</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>Jose “Joe” Pena</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Mike Kemp</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Frank Jones</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Rick Shifflet</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Blank</b>	<b>3</b>

## Local 1123 Vice President (1 to be elected)

<b>Curtis Green</b>	<b>250</b>
<b>Ed Smith</b>	<b>159</b>
<b>Larry Staskey</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>Todd Little</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Blank</b>	<b>19</b>

## Local 1123 Recording Secretary (1 to be elected)

<b>Carrie Holland</b>	<b>362</b>
<b>Mike Widmer</b>	<b>157</b>
<b>Blank</b>	<b>63</b>

## Local 1123 Financial Secretary

**Christopher Johnson \***

## Local 1123 Treasurer

**Joe Plott \***

## Local 1123 Guide

**Trish Hostettler \***

## Local 1123 Inside Guard (1 to be elected)

<b>Chad Steiner</b>	<b>282</b>
<b>Nathan McCray</b>	<b>217</b>
<b>Blank</b>	<b>83</b>

## Local 1123 Outside Guard

**Dave Elkins \***

## Local 1123 Trustees

**Scott Mathie \***  
**Sean Els \***  
**Shawn Lindner \***

## Faircrest Steel Plant Grievance Committee

<b>Mike Poole **</b>	<b>114</b>
<b>Curtis Green</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Barry Allison</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>James Borell</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Blank</b>	<b>6</b>

## Faircrest Steel Plant Negotiator (1 elected)

<b>Mike Poole</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>Curtis Green</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Blank</b>	<b>6</b>

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Gambrinus Steel Plant Grievance Comm

**Jose “Joe” Pena \*\* 103**  
**Ed Smith 99**  
**Bill Miknis 66**  
**Jonathan Burdge 61**  
**Blank 11**

Gambrinus Steel Plant Negotiator

(1 to be elected)

**Jose “Joe” Pena 61**  
**Ed Smith 60**  
**Nick Springer 41**  
**Wes Hughes 25**  
**Blank 1**  
**Invalid 2**

Harrison Steel Plant Grievance Comm

**Pat Eslich 101**  
**Nathan “Mac” McCray \*\* 75**  
**Willis McCoy 63**  
**Mike Widmer 58**  
**Blank 11**

Harrison Steel Plant Negotiator

(1 to be elected)

**Scott Mathie 84**  
**Todd Little 59**  
**Mike Widmer 29**  
**Blank 11**

Local 1123-04 Unit President (Bearing)

(1 to be elected)

**Joe Plott 21**  
**Dan Kennedy 16**

Local 1123-04 Unit Secretary

**No Nominations**

Gambrinus Roller Plant Grievance

Committee

**Bryan Braun \***

Gambrinus Roller Plant Negotiator

**No Nominations**

Local 1123-01 Unit Chair (Credit Union)

**Debbie Westfall \***

Local 1123-01 Unit Secretary

**Robbi Yoe \***

Local 1123-01 Unit Griever

**Robbi Yoe \***

**\* Elected by acclamation**

**\*\* Denotes Chairman**

Tellers

**Jeff Spurrier - Chairman**  
**Robert Taylor**  
**Raymond Taylor**  
**Pat Smith**  
**Josh Adams**  
**Erik Houk**

**Total Ballots: 582**



## Underfunded Multi-employer Defined Pension Plans, Relief Finally Arrives

**By Bill Pienta**

*SOAR President* Many critics disapproving of the recently-passed American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) are complaining it has a number of provisions in the relief package that are not COVID-19 related.

One such item included in the relief package addresses the multiemployer pensions crisis. Although the crisis began long before the COVID-19 pandemic, the economic consequences of COVID-19 exacerbated challenges facing many multi-employer plans, employers, and essential workers; therefore, making immediate financial relief crucial. I am certainly glad it was part of the ARPA.

Over 100 multiemployer defined pension plans were expected to run out of money in the next 20 years, some as early as 2025.

Due to a combination of the 2008-2009 economic recession, the deregulation and consolidation of certain heavily unionized industries, and an overall demographic shift away from unionized labor has resulted in many, if not most, multiemployer pension plans being underfunded, according to a prominent law firm.

But thanks to the Butch Lewis Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act being passed in the ARPA, this long-overdue legislation to fix the multi-employer pension crisis has been resolved.

The Butch Lewis Act has made an immediate impact on the livelihood of over 1.5 million people, with 120,000 of them being present and former USW-represented members.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates the pensions' cost savings for these multiemployer plans will be approximately \$86 billion due to the investment from the Butch Lewis Act of 2021. I cannot think of a better use for funds in the American Rescue Plan than to rescue the retirement future for the 120,000 USW members and their families.

A significant number of USW-represented retirees who are impacted by this legislation do not actively belong to SOAR, but that did not stop SOAR from fighting for them.

SOAR lobbied, wrote postcards, and made phone calls in support of the provisions of the Butch Lewis Act to address this important issue. It would be great if the USW retirees who benefitted from our hard work would reconsider becoming a member of SOAR. But regardless, SOAR will continue to fight for what is right for our retirees.

## Small Margins Yield Big Results

**By Julie Stein**

*SOAR Director* In March, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which breaks from the tradition of previous stimulus efforts, and delivers significant benefits to working families.

To the great relief of approximately 120,000 Steelworker members and retirees, the plan included the Butch Lewis Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act. The Butch Lewis Act provides up to \$86 billion for multiemployer pension plans that were facing peril resulting from corporate bankruptcies, industry consolidation and investment losses, and the economic fallout related to the coronavirus. This investment will ensure more than 100 at-risk multi-employer pension plans covering ten million union members, widows and retirees will be fully funded for at least 30 years.

However, the American Recovery Act's primary focus is to address the protracted health and economic crises stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Regarding health, the plan:

- Provides \$48.3 billion for COVID-19 testing and contact tracing,
- Allocates \$7.5 billion for the distribution of vaccines,

- Stimulates domestic job creation with the investment of \$10 billion in the production of PPE, vaccines and medical supplies.
- Extends COBRA coverage for uninsured workers with a 100 percent subsidy, which is vital because it ensures many of our Steelworker siblings will continue to have access to quality, affordable health care.
- Extend more than \$150 million for COVID-19 worker protections, with \$75 million dedicated to OSHA enforcement in high-risk sectors.
- Regarding the economy, the plan:
- Will immediately direct \$1,400 to lower and middle income families who have been hit hardest over the last year,
- Provide an average tax cut of more than \$6,000 to more than 70% of Americans,
- Enhances unemployment benefits through September, providing an additional \$300 for impacted workers.

So much more could be written about how working people will benefit from this historic legislation, and I'd like to close by noting how significant Steelworkers were in making all of this happen.

This legislation was able to reach the President's desk because it had the support of pro-worker majorities that we helped elect by making phone calls, knocking on doors, and talking to each other in our worksites and communities.

Additionally, the inclusion of the Butch Lewis Act in the American Rescue Plan is a monumental victory for our union and so many of our members, retirees and staff who all worked for nearly a decade to see this through.

Be proud, Steelworkers! **We did it!**

## ***Coming Events***

**April 28**

Workers Memorial Day

**2021 Bass Tournament**

Canceled



*The following members of the Golden Lodge have passed away and Bibles have been presented to their families.*

**CHARLES F. GRASSO**, Age 95, Dept. 12, passed away November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Brother Grasso joined the Union in 1943 and retired in 1986.

**RICHARD W. GOUGH**, Age 89, Dept. 190, passed away December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Brother Gough joined the Union in 1969 and retired in 1994.

**PAUL J. GALATI**, Age 57, Dept. 227, passed away March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Brother Galati joined the Union in 2005 and was active at the time of his death.

**GEORGE E. SCHMIDT, JR.**, Age 79, Dept. 52, passed away March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Brother Schmidt joined the Union in 1964 and retired in 2003.

**HAROLD F. KING**, Age 91, passed away March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Brother King joined the Union in 1952 and retired in 1992.

**JOEL W. HOSTETLER**, Age 66, Dept. 68, passed away March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Brother Hostetler joined the Union in 1975 and retired in 2006.

**AARON D. GELM**, Age 43, Dept. 161, passed away March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Brother Gelm joined the Union in 2009 and was active at the time of his death.

**LARRY C. COMPTON II**, Age 56, Dept. 222, passed away March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. Brother Compton joined the Union in 1988 and retired in 2018.

**DON R. HEASTON, SR.**, Age 85, Dept. 86, passed away March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Brother Heaston joined the Union in 1976 and retired in 1993.

**JOHN M. WATT**, Age 77, Dept. 75, passed away March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Brother Watt joined the Union in 1969 and retired in 2001.

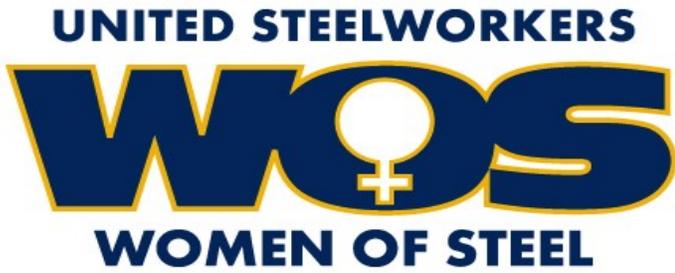
## ***Recent Retirees***

*Congratulations to the following members who have recently retired and will now enjoy their Union negotiated retiree pension and healthcare benefits.*

***David Rockich***

***Jeffery Difiori***

***Kenneth Stahler***



## Women of Steel District 1 Scholarships

**FOUR SCHOLARSHIPS** will be awarded by lottery from those applicants who comply with the application requirements:

- Two (2) Technical/Trade/Online Scholarships with a total value of \$1500 each to be applied toward tuition at any accredited trade, technical or online school in the United States.
- Two (2) Academic Scholarships with a total value of \$2000 each to be applied toward tuition at any accredited college or university in the United States.

### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE:**

Daughters and sons; step-children and legal wards (residing with or having proof of financial obligation for applicant) of any active United Steelworkers, District 1 member employed within the jurisdiction of his / her local; or who have retired from said local within the last seven (7) years (after 6/30/2014), are eligible to apply for the scholarship awards. The candidate must be in a graduating high school class during the year the scholarship is being awarded and have attained at least a 2.8 cumulative grade point average, which must be stated on the attached transcript for the year of graduation.

### **HOW TO APPLY:**

Applicants must complete the application form with all required information. Incomplete information will result in rejection of the application. The High School Principal or Guidance Counselor must certify the applicant's academic status on the application form. A copy of the applicant's current transcript (including first half of graduating year) and an essay must be attached to the completed application. The application must have the Local Union Seal and certification verifying the membership or retirement of applicant's parent/step-parent or legal guardian.

Applications are to be sent to United Steelworkers, District 1 Women of Steel Scholarship Committee, 777 Dearborn Park Lane, Suite J, Columbus, OH 43085.

### **DEADLINE:**

Complete application form, transcript and essay must be received by Friday, June 11, 2021, before 3:00 p.m., in the Columbus Office. Faxed applications will not be accepted. Additional applications can be obtained by contacting the USW Columbus Office at 614- 888-6052; downloading the forms at [www.usw.org](http://www.usw.org) – District 1; or you can make copies of the form (please note some pages are 2-sided).

### **ESSAY INTERVIEW:**

Interview a Local Union Officer (other than a parent or guardian). Why did they get involved in the Local Union. Why did they choose the Local Union position they hold.

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 973  
CANTON, OH

Steelworkers Local 1123, Golden Lodge  
1234 Harrison Ave. SW  
Canton, OH 44706

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Then submit the essay using the exact title below: • ( \_\_\_ fill in name \_\_\_ ) chose to get involved in the Local Union and ran for ( fill in position ) of the Local Union.

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

- Use the topic listed above for your essay; The exact title must be at the top of the essay.
- Use 8 1/2" by 11" white paper, one side only.
- Must be typewritten, double spaced, one inch margins, Font size-12.
- Minimum one full/complete page and a maximum of two pages.
- Essays will be evaluated on content of topic, spelling, grammar, and punctuation, in addition to the above requirements.
- Know the facts; research your topic, be specific.
- Bibliography: If you use reference material, identify the source(s) at the end of your essay.

Deadline – Received in the Columbus Office by Friday, June 11, 2021, before 3:00 p.m. Faxed Applications will not be accepted. Mail completed application to: United Steelworkers District 1 Scholarship Committee 777 Dearborn Park Lane, Suite J Columbus, OH 43085

Any questions call Teresa Cassady at 614-888-6052.