

# GOLDEN LODGE NEWS



Volume 71, No. 1



Spring 2024

## TimkenSteel changes name to **METALLUS**



**By Pat Eslich**

*President*

Let me start with the steel side of things. The Company has announced a name change for the Company. As of February 27, 2024, we will no longer be known as TimkenSteel Corp. The new name will be Metallus Inc (MTUS). The Company is re-branding itself. They told the Union that they are honoring all negotiated agreements. ***Nothing will change with our benefits.*** It is a name change only. Also, by now you should have received a letter from the TimkenSteel Benefits Team regarding the ongoing contract negotiations between Cigna Healthcare and the Cleveland Clinic. The process is still ongoing, so more information will be shared as the situation develops.

On the Bearing side, the Union and the Company are setting up dates to talk about the rising healthcare costs for non-Medicare eligible retirees. This topic was brought up during the last rounds of the Timken Company/GRP negotiations. A meeting is supposed to be held within 180 days after the ratification of the new agreement. The goal is to reduce medical premium costs for our retirees.

We have mailed out information to all active members regarding the upcoming Officers Election and Nomination Notice. Bulletins have been posted at all plants. Here is a quick review: ***Written Nominations*** of candidates will be accepted during regular business hours at The Golden Lodge, 1234 Harrison SW. Canton, Ohio, beginning **8:30 am Wednesday, March 6, 2024, until 4:30 pm Tuesday March 19, 2024.**

Nominations are for the following offices: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Guide, Inside Guard, Outside Guard, Trustees (3 to be elected), Grievance Committee Members (4 to be elected from each division; FSP, HSP, GSP, GRP) and Negotiators (1 to be elected from each division). In addition, Members of Local 1123-01 (Golden Circle Credit Union) will nominate a Unit President, Unit Secretary, and Unit Griever. Members of Local 1123-04 (The Timken Company) will nominate a Unit President and Unit Secretary. During this Nomination period anyone wishing to be considered as a Teller may also submit a Nomination.

The election of officers, grievance committee members and negotiators will be on **Tuesday, April 9, 2024**, at The Golden Lodge, 1234 Harrison Ave. S.W., Canton, Ohio 44706 between the hours of **6:30 a.m.** and **6:30 p.m.** Ballots will be counted at The Golden Lodge. Anyone whose work, including official union business, requires them to be more than 50 miles away from the polling place or whose service in the armed forces or vacation prevents them from appearing at the polls during the time of the election may request an absentee ballot. The request for an absentee ballot must be made in writing to the chairperson of the election committee. It must state why and what work assignment will require you to be more than 50 miles away during the hours of the election. It must be received by the chairperson of the election committee 7 days or more in advance of the day of the election. Those elected take office in May 2024 and serve for 36 months.

Written nominations will be accepted at The Golden Lodge Union Hall and placed in a designated drop box. Nominations must be signed, include the member's name, contact phone number and what office they wish to be a candidate for. If a member is nominating another member for office, that member's name and contact phone number must be included so they may be contacted by the Election Committee. Members **can only** be a candidate for one (1) office. Members **can** be candidates for a Local Union Office and Grievance Committee and/or Negotiator. Members **can** also be candidates for a Local Office and an Amalgamated Unit position.



## SAFETY CORNER



**By Sean Els**

*Union Safety  
Chairman*

Change, not just with the weather like many of us are hoping for, but with health and safety. 2023 and 2024 has seen and will continue to see the needed change to get us where we need to be. Changes associated with health and safety initiatives, OSHA, name change, and staffing are what I'm going to touch on in this article.

The health and safety team have been working on many initiatives which started in 2023 and will continue for some time because it's a huge undertaking. A significant difference I notice is the structured approach to get this accomplished through a recent change within the health and safety team.

Initiatives:

- Review, write or rewrite, health, and safety programs along with supporting documents
- House the above mentioned in a central location for all employees to have access to
- LOTOTO (lockout tagout tryout) program rewrite, training/rollout, and compliance adherence
- PEERS (positive employee engagements reward safety) a program developed by your union safety reps (USRs)
- Safe work permits
- Training

Nothing has changed with OSHA since my last writing, Q1 Golden Lodge News 2023. Unfortunately, there are updates. Someday we will get to a point where I will have nothing to report on, one can only hope, which will be a momentous change. As for now, we are on track to get to that point; the indications are becoming more.

In 2023 the company had one OSHA inspection (FSP contractor injury) for which citations were issued and an informal settlement was reached. The company is currently under the conditions of the informal settlement, which was agreed upon by all three parties (USW 1123, OSHA, and TimkenSteel). The company also had to investigate an employee complaint in 2023 (FSP). OSHA was satisfied with the findings and corrective actions submitted by the company, so the complaint was closed out.

2024 has brought two significant injuries, by OSHA's terms, which requires the employer to report. The first one at the Harrison rolling mill has been closed due to the acceptance of the company's response to the OSHA RRI (rapid response investigation). The second significant injury at the Faircrest melt shop has been reported to OSHA. As of this writing the next steps by OSHA, via communication to the company, are an RRI or coming onsite for an inspection. I'm quite confident by the time this newsletter hits your eyes one of the two will have happened, many are leaning towards an inspection.

The name change of the company to Metallus does not change anything with OSHA. Metallus assumes all aspects TimkenSteel has with OSHA such as but not limited to, remaining in the severe violator program, and fulfilling all inspection settlements. In other words, the slate is not wiped clean. This has been confirmed with OSHA.

I would like to mention one last thing on the OSHA front. If you ever find yourself engaged in activities with OSHA or OSHA and company without any kind of Union Safety Representative presence, consider this a **red flag**. We had a couple of situations where this did happen. Both instances were addressed to the appropriate parties in the hopes of no repeats. FYI, at times, the company is not right nor OSHA. Fortunately, due to the unfortune of a lot of OSHA activity over the years, Union Safety has become well versed in these matters, whether at the Local level or International level.

Health and safety personnel have changed over the last year with the union and company. We have added some more representatives to our union safety committee to better serve you. They are currently participating in the monthly housekeeping tours (safety audits) and attending plant joint health and safety committee meetings.

The company has added to their health and safety staff as well with three more new hires. At the corporate level, Jay Carter, and Eric Pfeiffer. Jay has an emphasis on FSP, along with other corporate health and safety duties, Eric oversees all of health and safety for the company in a new Director position. Eric is our new leader for health and safety who I referred to in the beginning of this writing. Austin Wayt has been brought in at the plant level. His original emphasis was both HSP and GSP. He recently has been moved to FSP.

A couple of additional changes within the salary safety group have been initiated as well. Nick Owensby has been moved from FSP to HSP. Shawn Crites now has an emphasis on GSP and HSP as well as other corporate health and safety duties.

Lastly, I want to end with Workers Memorial Day. No change here, once again we will be at the Hall for the Ceremony. It will be on April 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm. Hopefully you will be able to attend. This is a time for us to come together and remember those who lost their lives while on the job or later due to occupational illnesses and diseases in the U.S. They are family members — spouses, children, siblings, grandparents, friends, and coworkers.

\* There were 5,486 fatal work injuries in 2022 (3.7 fatalities per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers). Source: <https://www.osha.gov/data/commonstats#:~:text=Worker%20deaths%20in%20America%20are,2.7%20per%20100%20in%202022>.

This equates to over 15 fatal work injuries per day. Unfortunately that is way too many. ***You can't get home unless you are safe.***

## GOLDEN LODGE NEWS

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OSHA 30 hour training class at the Golden Lodge

# Social Security Seminar

By **Chris Tunney**

*Associate Editor*

In February, we had the honor and privilege of Social Security Public Affairs Specialist for Northeast Ohio, Mr. Robert Fenn, at the Golden Lodge for a seminar. After his brief introduction, he dug right in.

He started with a useful website that is a collaboration of twenty different Federal agencies all placing their information on one website. <https://www.mymoney.gov/> It is a resource for money matters with topics to help families manage life events, all in one place.

Contacting the SSA is easy, even if traveling anywhere in the country because it is a federal program. Representatives are available Monday – Friday 8am - 7pm at 800.772.1213. The local office hours are 9am - 4pm. Before contacting Social Security, your first option should be viewing [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov). Here you can find answers to many of your questions and filing options! <https://faq.ssa.gov/en-US/>

How do you become eligible? F.I.C.A. Federal Insurance Contribution Act. It is a federal payroll tax deducted from each paycheck. The total FICA tax is 15.3% of your gross wages. You and your employer each pay 7.65% for FICA, 6.2% for Social Security and 1.45% for Medicare. This helps fund both programs which provide benefits for retirees, wounded warriors, people with disabilities and children.

You qualify for retirement benefits by earning “credits” when you work and pay Social Security taxes. Each \$1730 in earnings gives you one credit in 2024. You can earn a maximum of four credits per year. You need forty credits (10 years of working) and be age 62 or older.

Your Social Security benefits are based on earnings. Wages are adjusted for changes in wage levels over time. Next is finding your monthly average of your thirty-five highest earnings years. This results in your “average indexed monthly earnings.”

When to start collecting Social Security benefits is a personal decision. You may start drawing monthly benefits at age 62. However, every month/year that you wait, increases your monthly benefit. If you were born in 1960 or later, your full retirement age is 67 years old.

There is a benefit website, <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/calculators/> to help you determine what your benefits will be.

There are three convenient ways to apply for your Social Security benefits. You can call the 800-phone number listed above. You can go to your local Social Security office and apply in person or online at <https://www.ssa.gov/apply> Most walk in’s will be given an appointment at a later date but protected for the date they visited the SSA office. Applications taken on-line can still receive answers to your questions by SSA representatives. They will contact you by phone after your submission of the application.

If you are receiving Social Security and working, it may impact your benefits. If you are working in 2024 and under your full retirement age, you can make up to \$22,320/ year. If you earn more, some benefits will be withheld \$1 for every \$2. The year full retirement age is reached, you can make \$59,520/ year, up to the month of full retirement age. If you exceed the limit, benefits will be withheld \$1 for every \$3. If you are in the month of full retirement age and above, there is no limit to what you may earn.

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) provides a monthly benefit to people who are no longer able to work because of a significant disabling condition. You may qualify if you have medical conditions expected to last 12 months or result in death. You are younger than full retirement age and earn less than the substantial gainful activity limit. <https://www.ssa.gov/disability> To qualify, the worker must have paid into Social Security five out of the last ten years.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) provides monthly payment to people who have limited income and resources. People who are 65 or older as well as those of any age, who are blind or have disabilities and limited income and resources. <https://www.ssa.gov/ssi>

Social Security is the avenue to Medicare <https://www.medicare.gov/> The first opportunity to enroll is your seven-month initial enrollment period. That is the three months before the month you turn 65, the month you turn 65 and the three months after you turn 65. Next is the general enrollment period. If you have passed your initial enrollment period, you may enroll anytime between January 1 – March 31. There is also a special enrollment period.

Let us say that you are still working past the age of 65. There is a stipulation in our contracts that says you must enroll for Medicare.

Because you are still working, when you enroll for Medicare after age 65, just sign up for Part A only, decline Part B. You will get a card with Part A only on it. While you are working your employer's medical coverage is primary and Medicare becomes secondary.

Once you retire, you will have to sign up for Part B and select a Medicare supplement plan. Part A covers hospital expenses. No premium for most people and the Medicare Part A inpatient hospital deductible that beneficiaries pay if admitted to the hospital will be \$1634 for the benefit period.

Medicare Part B covers 80% of doctor bills and other outpatient medical expenses after the \$226 deductible is met. The Part B premium for 2024 is \$174.70/ month. It is paid out of your Social Security check automatically each month.

Another resource for seniors to help navigate medical plan options is OSHIIP.  
<https://insurance.ohio.gov/about-us/divisions/oshiip>

Tip: Do not carry your Social Security card on your person unless needed that day. In some states you can make name changes (hopefully that option comes to Ohio soon), at this time you can get a replacement card on line and so much more on the Social Security website.

Please be wary of scams/frauds. If you receive a threatening call, hang up and report them at <https://oig.ssa.gov/>.

Here are some additional fraud resources. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) 877.438.4338. Tax issues visit <https://www.irs.gov/identity-theft-central> or call 800.908.4490.

<https://consumer.ftc.gov/features/identity-theft> for prevention tips and free resources.

The DMV DL/ID Fraud Hotline is 866.658.5758.

Here's where you can get a free credit reports <https://www.annualcreditreport.com/index.action> or call 877.322.8228.

Lastly, is Social Security going to be there in the future?

Here is the source to that question: <https://www.ssa.gov/OACT/TRSUM/index.htm>

If the current funding of Social Security continues, it's projected the reserves (interest) will be depleted. However, the principal income will remain, thus possibly paying reduced amounts (but payments continued).

If no action, in terms of funding, is taken, the reduction could take place in 2035 (78%). If no action is taken in 2035, funds will continue before another reduction near 2094.

Social Security is a pay as we go system with a current surplus. Congress will continue to decide how to address this situation.



Robert Fenn at SS Seminar  
Above and below



New members getting sworn in recently, Anthony Gamble, Katrice Adkins, Charles Boone, Deladeaye Earley, above left, and J'Keem Waters on right





# IN MEMORIAM

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

**JOHN MOAURO**, Age 92, Dept. 733, passed away September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. Brother Moauro joined the Union in 1977 and retired in 1992.

**DAVID W. FOWLER**, Age 79, Dept. 21, passed away November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Brother Fowler joined the Union in 1964 and retired in 2000.

**JAMES R. MCQUAID**, Age 88, Dept. 133, passed away November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Brother McQuaid joined the Union in 1966 and retired in 1996.

**THOMAS A. GARTNER**, Age 94, Dept. 136, passed away November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. Brother Gartner joined the Union in 1968 and retired in 2001.

**BERMA K. AUTREY**, Age 53, Dept. 79, passed away November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Sister Autrey joined the Union in 1995 and retired in 2010.

**ROGER PHILPOTT**, Age 69, Dept. 36, passed away November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Brother Philpott joined the Union in 1976 and retired in 2006.

**RANDY L. ENDLICH**, Age 70, Dept. 181, passed away November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Brother Endlich joined the Union in 1974 and retired in 2004.

**LENDEEN G. JEFFERS**, Age 90, Dept. 189, passed away November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Brother Jeffers joined the Union in 1953 and retired in 1997.

**SANDRA L. LEGGETT**, Age 74, Dept. 75, passed away December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Sister Leggett joined the Union in 1969 and retired in 1999.

**JOSEPH L. TABELLION, SR.**, Age 87, Dept. 21, passed away December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Brother Tabellion joined the Union in 1966 and retired in 1999.

**JIMMEY RAY BENFIELD**, Age 77, Dept. 224, passed away December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Brother Benfield joined the Union in 1985 and retired in 2012.

**WALTER D. LEGROM**, Age 78, Dept. 189, passed away December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Brother Legrom joined the Union in 1968 and retired in 2003.

**TERRY L. BRACE**, Age 76, Dept. 99, passed away December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Brother Brace joined the Union in 1997 and retired in 2010.

**ROBERTA L. WALTERS**, Age 72, Dept. 79, passed away December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Sister Walters joined the Union in 2000 and retired in 2016.

**EARL V. LAUBACHER**, Age 81, Dept. 40, passed away December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Brother Laubacher joined the Union in 1959 and retired in 1997.

**RICHARD L. REARDON**, Age 69, Dept. 753, passed away January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Brother Reardon joined the Union in 1978 and retired in 2018.

**MICHAEL W. WENZEL**, Age 77, Dept. 182, passed away January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Brother Wenzel joined the Union in 1971 and retired in 2001.

**DAN. R. COLLINS**, Age 78, Dept. 40, passed away January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Brother Collins joined the Union in 1964 and retired in 2000.

**WILLIAM P. HARLESS, JR.**, Age 76, Dept. 94, passed away January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Brother Harless joined the Union in 1969 and retired in 2004.

**TIMOTHY L. WILLIAMS**, Age 65, Dept. 250, passed away January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Brother Williams joined the Union in 1987 and retired in 2020.

**RICHARD P. CHAMBERS**, Age 91, Dept. 120, passed away January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Brother Chambers joined the Union in 1955 and retired in 1987.

**MICHAEL W. OSBURN**, Age 86, Dept. 76, passed away January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Brother Osburn joined the Union in 1959 and retired in 1990.

**THOMAS D. WILLIAMS**, Age 80, Dept. 60, passed away February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Brother Williams joined the Union in 1964 and retired in 1994.

**DENNIS A. HARRIS**, Age 69, Dept. 133, passed away February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Brother Harris joined the Union in 1974 and retired in 2019.

**JERRALD I. BARRINO**, Age 72, Dept. 75, passed away February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Brother Barrino joined the Union in 1969 and retired in 1999.

**LILLIAN MCLAUGHLIN**, Age 88, Dept. 81, passed away February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Sister McLaughlin joined the Union in 1965 and retired in 1996.



## Calling all golfers!

The Golden Lodge Tuesday Evening Golf League has openings for individuals and two-man teams. The league will start in April at the Wilkshire Golf Course! Call Chris Yacono at 330.323.7754.



## Coming Events

### Regular Union Meeting

1st Wednesday of the month

4:30 pm

### Steward Classes

2nd Wednesday of the month

9:00 am / 4:30 pm

### Regular Union Meeting

3rd Wednesday of the month

9:00 am

### March 29 Good Friday\*

Paid Holiday

### May 27 Memorial Day\*

Paid Holiday

*\*Union negotiated benefit*



## WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

**Join us, Friday, April 26, 2024 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm at The Golden Lodge**

Since Workers Memorial Day (every April 28<sup>th</sup>) falls on a Sunday this year, the Union is going to have a ceremony the Friday before. Hopefully, you can attend. Feel free to share as you deem fit and please take time to remember those who lost their lives while on the job or later due to occupational illnesses and diseases.

## Recent Retirees

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

*Cathy Boley*

*Jennifer Lemon*

*Tim Henson*

*Robert Viertel*

*Kathy Ferdinand*

*David Locker*

*Bard Huntsman*

*Linda Redleski\**

*Wesley Hughes*

*\* Golden Circle  
Credit Union*

*Bradley Thomas*

*Retire  
and  
enjoy*



Rapid Response is a non-partisan, grassroots education and mobilization program that allows Steelworker members to stay informed of legislative issues that impact our working lives. Through this education, we have a direct way of knowing what is taking place in Washington and in our state capitols – and can act to make a real difference in shaping policy to benefit workers rather than corporate interests.

The issues impacting Steelworker members are more critical and threatening than ever. Whether it is an attempt to undermine collective bargaining rights, a push to advance trade agreements that ship jobs overseas, or threats to key middle-class sustaining programs like Social Security and Medicare, we have many reasons to be concerned. These policies affect our contracts, wallets, workplaces and communities while shaping our overall economy.

Steelworkers must engage in the fight to stop bad policy while promoting a better economy that works for all. Rapid Response provides the tools to generate these needed changes by getting education on the issues and then impacting the legislative process.

Rapid Response provides an opportunity for all Steelworker members to have a voice in government decisions. Every local union should designate a Local Union Coordinator who, along with the President, recruits a Rapid Response Team. Team Members are responsible for distributing InfoAlerts and Feedback Reports, as well as making sure Action Calls are carried out.

Rapid Response provides the necessary structure to inform every Steelworker member about pending legislation concerning labor and work-related issues.

All information distributed through Rapid Response identifies the issue as well as its effect on workers and their families. When the timing is right, action is requested. After the action is complete, feedback is given. The following are the three key informational pieces:

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

**InfoAlerts** – InfoAlerts inform members of relevant issues and legislation.

**Action Calls** – When action is needed on an issue that affects workers, an Action Call is sent. Action Calls may ask members to write a note, make a phone call, or to take other steps to inform legislators of our positions on issues.

**Feedback Reports** – When an action is completed, a Feedback Report is sent out. This report explains the results of the action,

**JOIN US!** Rapid Response information primarily goes out through email. You can join the email list by contacting your District Rapid Response Coordinator or email us at [uswrr@usw.org](mailto:uswrr@usw.org). You can also sign up for Rapid Response mobile alerts by texting **uswrapid** to the number 69866. We don't text often, only when it really counts!