



MICHAEL H. BOLTON, DIRECTOR

# UNITED STEELWORKERS USW UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS DISTRICT 2

# NEWS

JANUARY 2020 • VOLUME 10, ISSUE 1, PAGE 1

## DISTRICT 2 CONTACT INFORMATION

### USW District 2 Office

1244A Midway Road  
Menasha, WI 54952  
(920) 722-7630

### Northern WI & MI Sub-District Office

1244A Midway Road  
Menasha, WI 54952  
(920) 722-7630

### Southern WI Sub-District Office

1135 South 70th Street, Suite 502  
West Allis, WI 53214  
(414) 475-4560

### Northern MI Sub-District Office

503 North Euclid Avenue  
Suite #10 - Euclid Plaza  
Bay City, MI 48706  
(989) 667-0660

### Southern MI Sub-District Office

20600 Eureka Road, Suite 300  
Taylor, MI 48180  
(734) 285-0367

## USW District 2 Council Steering Committee

The District 2 Council By-Laws established a District 2 Council Steering Committee comprised of a rank and file structure. It was set up to assist in the following:

- Development of agenda for Council Conference.
- Planning of the District Council Conference Educational Conferences.
- District 2 strategic planning.
- Determining and assessing educational needs within the District.
- Generating and leading activism and other purposes consistent with the mission and directives of District 2 and the USW.

The elected members of the Steering Committee are listed below by manufacturing sector. If you need to contact a Steering Committee Member, please do so by using the email provided below.

Name	LUF	Sector	Email Address
Ron Fancal	1296	Steel and Related	rfancal@yahoo.com
Don Carlson	58	Paper	doncarlson@gta.net
Robert Deamond	12762	Amalgamated	rdeamond@aol.com
Jesse Edwards	2-232	Automotive Related	Jesse_edwards2191@yahoo.com
Kent Holmg	12975	Chemical & Energy Related	kentholmg@gmail.com
Jackie Ankam	9898	Health Care	jackieankam_usw@aol.com
Michael Orvosh	12954	Public	m.orvosh@uswlocal12954.com
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Matthew Gibbons	3965	Al Large	usw3965@gmail.com
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United Steelworkers District 2  
AFL-CIO-CLC

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AFL-CIO.com, The History Channel,  
Union Review - todayinlaborhistory.tumblr.com

Articles and photos are welcome and should be sent:

Art Kroll, Editor, District 2 News  
20600 Eureka Road, Suite 300, Taylor, MI 48180  
a2@usw.org • 734-285-0367

February 17, 2020, is the deadline for submissions for the next issue.

## A Message from Michael Bolton



By now, our District 2 members should have received a mailing advising them of meetings to be held this month and in February regarding the United Steelworkers' Town Hall Meetings. The purpose of these meetings is twofold. First, it's to gain your input on the issues most important to you. Second, it provides an opportunity to explain how the work we do as a Union is impacted by laws passed by elected representatives. Meetings have been scheduled in each sub-district allowing members working on off shifts to attend. I believe the meetings are critical to our success in electing worker-friendly candidates this fall. They also offer a unique opportunity for Steelworkers to make their voices heard. I urge all District 2 members to attend one of the meetings in your area.

Additionally, the USW has established a website for you to share your opinions on the issues this election. Called "uswvoices.org", the site includes a member survey, our USW candidate questionnaire, a list of issues our Union has identified as being important to Steelworkers, and stories about how government policies are affecting our jobs and economic security. It also includes an expanded list of dates and locations of the meetings mentioned above. Again, I want to urge every District 2 member to take advantage of this site. Your Union is listening. Act now to ensure your voice is heard by visiting uswvoices.org.

You may have already heard, the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate has passed NAFTA 2.0, or the USMCA, as Washington is calling it. The agreement was passed on a strong bi-partisan vote in both houses. For the first time ever, a trade deal was endorsed by the AFL-CIO and its industrial Unions, including ours. This happened because organized labor had a seat at the table as this trade pact was negotiated. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi made sure we were a part of the discussion and pushed for language we were lobbying for. As a result, we now have a trade agreement that works for working people. Also, for the first time, we have enforcement language in the agreement to ensure the Mexican government lives up to its commitments on labor and human rights and protecting the environment.

I'll be the first to admit we did not get everything we asked for, but that's the nature of negotiations. However, I am pleased with the language we received on labor rights. The only real way to stop the exodus of U.S. manufacturers to Mexico is to raise wages and benefits for workers

south of the border. By creating a system of real, independent Unions with the power to bargain with employers, we are now in a position to gain the level playing field we have been seeking for 25 years.

I think I should point out the passage of this agreement as it is currently written could not have happened if you had not elected the right people to represent you in the House.

In the last issue of the **USW D2 NEWS**, I mentioned that we would begin the year by taking a look at the issues affecting this fall's presidential election. However, with our town hall meetings about to get started, I decided to hold off until they are completed. We will talk about the issues and why it is important to all of us to elect worker-friendly candidates at those meetings. But, I think the passage of the USMCA trade agreement presents us with an excellent opportunity to discuss why our Union endorses and supports particular candidates.

The NAFTA 2.0 that passed the House last month was not the agreement President Trump originally sent Congress. The President's trade deal, which had no enforcement provisions in it, would have led to more lost jobs and continued wage stagnation here in the U.S. Corporations would be free to keep polluting our environment and a Union Organizer would remain the most life threatening job in the country. Fortunately, that is not the deal we got.

Unions received a better deal because we were treated as equal partners in the negotiating process. We gained that status because Union members voted for, and helped elect, a Democratic majority in the House. It is also why we have legislation to help save multi-employer pensions, and legislation is pending to modernize the National Labor Relations Act of 1935.

If you look across the Capitol to the Senate side of Congress, where Republicans still hold the majority, you will see that every piece of worker-friendly legislation passed by the House is being held on the Majority Leader's desk. Think about that for a minute. A bill that could prevent millions of seniors and future retirees from facing reduced benefits is dying because the party in charge refuses to act. This is not right and hurts people who played by the rules and are now facing financial hardship.

Yes! The candidates we elect make a difference and is why our Union does the tough, but necessary work, of screening political candidates and recommending them for your support. To help understand how candidates are chosen, the USW posted a candidate questionnaire on line. Again, as stated above, that questionnaire can be found on "uswvoices.org/survey". As you view it, you will find that our Union goes through great lengths to find Candidates who are supportive of our bread

— Continued on Page 2 —

# "GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

## Did you know?

UNITED STEELWORKERS  
**USW**  
**YOUR UNION  
YOUR VOICE**  
#USWVOICES

### OUR CORE ISSUES

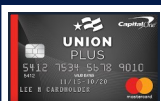
**COLLECTIVE BARGAINING**  
**SAFETY AND HEALTH**  
**JOB SECURITY/TRADE**  
**DOMESTIC ECONOMIC ISSUES**  
**HEALTH CARE**  
**RETIREMENT SECURITY**

## 851,700

The number of jobs lost in  
the decade after NAFTA  
took effect.

Fortune 500 companies  
hold a record \$2.6  
trillion offshore.

These companies are  
avoiding \$767 billion in  
U.S. taxes.



#### The Union Plus Credit Card program.

With 3 card choices - designed to meet the needs of union members. All with competitive rates, U.S. based customer service and more. Plus, exclusive hardship grants for eligible cardholders\*.

The Union Plus Credit Card Program is designed to meet the needs of hard-working union members and their families.

To apply by phone, call: 1-800-522-4000



**NEWS**

United Steelworkers District 2  
AFL-CIO-CLC

MICHAEL H. BOLTON, Director, 1244A Midway Road, Menasha, WI 54952  
(920) 722-7630



**HAVE YOU BEEN TO DISTRICT 2'S  
PAGE ON FACEBOOK?**

[www.facebook.com/USWDistrict2](http://www.facebook.com/USWDistrict2)

## A Message from Director Bolton - continued from page 1

and butter issues. Workplace safety and health, affordable health care, family supportive wages and security in retirement are issues we fight for every day. They are the issues we insist our endorsed candidates fight for as well.

Finally, we have just begun a new year. It's a time when people look ahead and consider ways to make it better than the year that just ended. It's what leads people to make resolutions they probably will not keep. I would like to suggest, as a Union, we look ahead to 2020 and make a resolution we have a duty to keep. We should resolve working to make this year the safest on record in workplaces. Of course, our ultimate goal is zero injuries and zero deaths in 2020; and we will always be working to reach that goal. Getting there is a team effort and everyone is a part of the team. Report unsafe work conditions to your Local Union Safety and Health Committee. If your Local Union does not have a committee, talk to your local union officers and volunteer to help establish one. The District is ready to work with you to train committee members and get them started.

Another part of the resolution should include bargaining strong safety and health language in your collective bargaining agreement. Joint Union-Management Safety and Health programs are the most effective way to ensure the safety and health of Steelworkers. They are fair and they do not punish workers who report being injured on the job. Your International Staff Representative has sample language that can help you get started. Our members' safety on the job is one of our top priorities.

Get involved and help us make 2020 the safest year ever!

## SAVE THE DATE • District 2 Conference

### Red Lion Hotel Paper Valley

Appleton, Wisconsin

## March 23 - 27, 2020

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
Women of Steel	March 23 - 24
Health & Safety	March 23 - 24
Next Generation	March 24
Education Day & Council Conference	March 25 - 27

Guest rooms will be available at a group rate of \$129 - \$149 per night.

Call letters and registration forms were mailed to all Local Union Presidents and Recording Secretaries on January 15, 2020.

To see the D2 Conference Call letter, go to pages 5 & 6

**"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"**





## 2020 District 2 Calendar of Events

### JANUARY

- 8 **WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*USW Local 12075 Hall, 3510 James Savage Road • Midland, MI*
- 9 **Town Hall Meeting**  
*USW Local 12075 Hall, 3510 James Savage Road • Midland, MI*
- 16 **Town Hall Meeting**  
*USW Local 1299 Hall, 11424 West Jefferson Avenue • River Rouge, MI*
- 17 **WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*USW Dist. 2 Southern MI Sub-Office, 20600 Eureka Road, Suite 300 • Taylor, MI*
- 17-19 **AFL-CIO Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Civil & Human Rights Conf.**  
*Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Ave Northwest • Washington, DC*
- 21 **Town Hall Meeting**  
*Lucky Dog's Labor Temple, 157 S. Green Bay Road • Neenah, WI*
- 21 **WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*Kent Ionia Labor Hall, 918 Benjamin Avenue NE • Grand Rapids, MI*
- 21 **WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*USW Local 2-21 Hall, 1201 Sheridan Road • Escanaba, MI*
- 22 **Town Hall Meeting**  
*Clarion Inn, 3640 East Cork Street • Kalamazoo, MI*
- 22 **WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*Old Morton Federal Credit Union, 516 Kosciusko • Manistee, MI*
- 22 **WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*USW Local 2-148 Hall, 1201 Gillingham Road • Neenah, WI*
- 23 **Town Hall Meeting**  
*Four Points by Sheraton - Milwaukee Airport, 5311 South Howell Avenue • Milwaukee, WI*
- 24 **WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*Milwaukee Labor Council Building, 633 S. Hawley Road • Milwaukee, WI*
- 24 **WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*Joann Lester Library, 100 Park Street • Nekoosa, WI*

### FEBRUARY

- 4 **Town Hall Meeting**  
*Eau Claire Labor Temple, 2233 Birch Street • Eau Claire, WI*
- 6 **Town Hall Meeting**  
*Fraternal Order of Eagles, 1104 S. Oak Avenue, Marshfield, WI*
- 11 **Town Hall Meeting**  
*Holiday Inn, 4079 US-10 • Ludington, MI*
- 13 **Town Hall Meeting**  
*McRae Park Hall, 1301 N 2nd Ave, Alpena, MI 49707*
- 18 **Town Hall Meeting**  
*USW Local 4950 Hall, 1206 Baldwin Avenue • Negaunee, MI*
- 25 **LM Review Session**  
*Milwaukee Labor Council Building, 633 S. Hawley Road • Milwaukee, WI*
- 26 **LM Review Session**  
*Lucky Dog's Labor Temple, 157 S. Green Bay Road • Neenah, WI*
- 27 **LM Review Session**  
*Kronenwetter Village Hall, 1582 Kronenwetter Drive • Kronenwetter, WI*
- 28 **LM Review Session**  
*USW Local 2-21 Hall, 1201 Sheridan Road • Escanaba, MI*

### MARCH

- 2 **LM Review Session**  
*USW Local 12075 Hall, 3510 James Savage Road • Midland, MI*
- 3 **LM Review Session**  
*Bungalow Inn, 1100 28th Street • Manistee, MI*
- 4 **LM Review Session**  
*Clarion Inn, 3640 East Cork Street • Kalamazoo, MI*
- 5 **LM Review Session**  
*USW District 2 Southern MI Sub-Office, 20600 Eureka Road, Suite 300 • Taylor, MI*
- 10-12 **USW District 2 Collective Bargaining Training**  
*Four Points by Sheraton - Milwaukee Airport, 5311 South Howell Avenue • Milwaukee, WI*
- 23-27 **District 2 Council Conference**  
*Red Lion Hotel Paper Valley • 333 West College Avenue, Appleton, WI*

### MAY

- 3-8 **District 2 WOS Leadership Development Course (Levels I & II)**  
*Zehnder's Splash Village Hotel & Waterpark, 1365 South Main Street • Frankenmuth, MI*

### AUGUST

- 3-6 **USW International Constitution Convention**  
*MGM Grand Hotel, 3799 Las Vegas Boulevard • Las Vegas, NV*

This schedule is designed to assist in planning this year's events. However, there is a possibility dates and/or locations could change due to unforeseen circumstances. Changes and corrections will be made ASAP and updated on the USW District 2 website.



# 2020

## Happy New Year!

## UNITED STEELWORKERS **TOWN HALL MEETING**

The most important work we do as a union involves bargaining and enforcing good contracts to secure fair wages, dependable benefits, and safe working conditions. However, whether we like it or not, workplace health and safety, wage and overtime regulations, retirement security, even our right to organize and bargain collectively, are all tied to local, state, and federal laws and the people making them.



# YOUR UNION YOUR VOICE

#USWVOICES

As we move into 2020, we want to hear about the issues that matter most to you. That's why we're holding a series of town hall meetings across the country. We'll have a conversation about your priorities and share some of our union's work to impact government decisions.

Join United Steelworkers leadership, members, retirees, and families for a  
**TOWN HALL MEETING**

DATE	LOCATION OF TOWNHALL MEETING	TIMES OF MEETINGS
1/9/20	USW LU 12075 Hall, 3510 James Savage Road, Midland, MI 48641	10:00 AM and 6:00 PM
1/16/20	USW LU 1299, 11424 West Jefferson Ave., River Rouge, MI 48218	10:00 AM and 6:00 PM
1/21/20	Lucky Dogz, 157 S Green Bay Rd., Neenah, WI 54956	10:00 AM and 6:30 PM
1/22/20	Clarion Inn, 3640 East Cork Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49001	10:00 AM and 6:00 PM
1/23/20	Four Points by Sheraton, 5311 South Howell Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53207	10:00 AM and 6:30 PM
2/4/20	Eau Claire Labor Temple, 2233 Birch St., Eau Claire, WI 54703	10:00 AM and 6:30 PM
2/6/20	Fraternal Order of Eagles, 1104 S. Oak Avenue, Marshfield, WI 54449	10:00 AM and 6:30 PM
2/11/20	Holiday Inn - Ludington, 4079 US-10, Ludington, MI 49431	10:00 AM and 6:00 PM
2/13/20	McRae Park Hall, 1301 N 2nd Ave, Alpena, MI 49707	10:00 AM and 6:00 PM
2/18/20	USW LU 4950 Hall, 1206 Baldwin Ave., Negaunee, MI 49866	10:00 AM and 6:30 PM

**"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"**



## USW District 2 Conference Call Letter - pages 5 & 6



**Michael Bolton**  
Director, District 2

January 15, 2020

### CONFERENCE CALL

**TO: All USW District 2 Local Union Presidents and Recording Secretaries**

**RE: 2020 USW District 2 Council Conference**

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

I am pleased to announce that we have scheduled a **District 2 Council Conference** to be held at the **Red Lion Hotel Paper Valley** in Appleton, Wisconsin, on **March 25-27, 2020**.

Registration will be 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24. Conference delegates unable to arrive on Tuesday can register on Wednesday, March 25, from 8:15 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.

The conference will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 25.

#### PRE-REGISTRATION

The registration fee is **\$115.00** per person, which includes the cost of all activities and materials, as well as the banquet on Thursday evening.

Conference registrants may bring a guest to Thursday's dinner by completing the Banquet Guest Registration Form and returning with payment of \$50.00 per guest to the District 2 Office.

Complete the enclosed registration form (and guest registration form for banquet, if applicable) and mail with check payable to **USW District 2** in the enclosed envelope.

**Registration and payment must be received by the District 2 office no later than 20 days before the Council Conference, which is March 5, 2020.**

#### CREDENTIAL FORM

A Credential Form must be completed for each elected delegate and alternate attending the Conference. The USW Local Union Seal must be impressed on all credentials. **Do NOT mail the Credential Forms with your registration.** All delegates and alternates must present their completed credential form at registration for the Credentials Committee.

#### AGENDA

The purpose of this Council Meeting is to report on the "State of the District" and to provide critical information about collective bargaining as well as recent political/legislative developments. An Education Day is held as part of the Conference on Wednesday, March 25, 2020.

*- continued on back -*

United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union

1244A Midway Road, Menasha, WI 54952 • 920-722-7630 • 920-722-7634 (Fax) • [www.usw.org](http://www.usw.org)

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— Continued on Page 6 —

**"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"**

## ACCOMMODATIONS

A block of sleeping rooms has been reserved at the Red Lion Hotel Paper Valley. The room rate is **\$129.00** per night for single or double occupancy, plus applicable taxes. All reservations must be accompanied by a first night room deposit or guaranteed with a major credit card. You may cancel your reservation for no charge by 3:00 p.m. one day prior to your arrival date or one night's room rate will be charged. Please note that this hotel is non-smoking.

You can make reservations online at <http://bit.ly/RedLionAppleton> or by calling (920) 733-8000 and asking for the "USW District 2 Conference" room block and giving your arrival date. The cut-off date for hotel reservations at the special group rate is **February 29, 2020**. Reservations made after this date will be at the hotel's prevailing rate, not the negotiated conference rate.

It is recommended that you reserve your room(s) as soon as possible due to the expected number of attendees at this Conference.

## COUNCIL CONFERENCE DELEGATES/VOTING

Any voting will follow the guidelines as laid out in **Article V** of **District 2's By-Laws**. A copy of the by-laws is available on District 2's website at <http://bit.ly/District2Bylaws>.

## SPECIAL GROUP MEETINGS

Requests for special meetings must be submitted in writing 15 days in advance of the Conference.

## RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

Resolutions may be presented to the District Conference on matters proper for consideration by a district conference, and which are not in conflict with the International Constitution or within the exclusive jurisdiction of the International Convention or International Executive Board.

1. Any Local Union may submit a Resolution if it has been passed by a majority vote of members present at a Local Union meeting and received in the District Office no later than ten (10) days prior to the convening of the Council Conference. Proposed changes to the District 2 Council By-laws must be received no later than thirty (30) days prior to the Council Conference.
2. Such Resolutions must be properly signed and dated by the Local Union President and Recording Secretary and must carry the impressed Local Union Seal.
3. Each resolution must deal with only one (1) subject and must be typed.  
Send one good copy so that additional copies can be made.

Mail to: Kelly Caldera  
USW District 2 Office  
1244A Midway Road  
Menasha, WI 54952

## DELEGATE EXPENSES

Each Local Union must bear the expenses of delegates attending the Conference, including lost time, travel, and hotel.

I strongly encourage participation from every Local and look forward to greeting your delegates at the Conference as we join together to achieve our Union's goals of economic, social, and political justice for all.

Yours in Solidarity,



Michael H. Bolton

## Alliance for Retired Americans • Retiree News - By Jay McMurran, 1st VP, MIARA & D2 SOAR Executive Board Member



### SOAR Eyes on Washington

On December 19, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the United States, Mexico and Canada Trade Agreement (USMCA), also known as NAFTA 2.0, by a wide bi-partisan vote. The agreement is the first U.S. trade pact to receive endorsement by the AFL-CIO and several of the country's top industrial Unions, including the United Steelworkers. USW President Tom Conway said, "The USMCA

is not a perfect agreement. There is still a need for Unions to be vigilant in watching that the Mexican government lives up to its commitments. However, when compared with the agreement that the Trump Administration had originally proposed, this USMCA is a positive step forward for American workers. The USMCA agreement was passed on a strong bi-partisan vote in both houses and President Trump signed the agreement on January 29, 2020.

For over 25 years, NAFTA has been a bitter pill that American workers have been forced to swallow. It has led to lost jobs and stagnant wages. Employers moving operations south of the border to exploit low-wage Mexican workers have left communities devastated and lives torn apart. The broken promises made by politicians in the run-up to NAFTA's passage have caused mistrust and resentment toward our elected representatives. It's easy to understand why Americans might be reluctant to embrace the new agreement as a win for workers. To help District 2 members understand the agreement's benefits for workers, below is a reprinted letter from USW President, Tom Conway, announcing the USW's support for the USMCA:

### USW Supports Adoption of Improved USMCA

DEC 10, 2019 **Contact:** Jess Kamm Broomell, 412-562-2444, [jkamm@usw.org](mailto:jkamm@usw.org)

(Pittsburgh) – *United Steelworkers (USW) International President Thomas M. Conway issued the following statement today regarding changes to improve the negotiated U.S.-Canada-Mexico Agreement (USMCA).*

"Members of the USW, the largest industrial union in North America, have suffered firsthand the devastating effects of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The bad trade deal cost countless jobs, ravaged families and communities and pulled down wages as companies have outsourced jobs and production to Mexico.

"For 26 years, workers have lived with NAFTA as a yoke around their necks, and we have been committed to fixing it.

"Last fall, the administration, along with the Mexican and Canadian governments, signed an agreement they thought would sail past the labor community. But that agreement, called the USMCA, fell far short of what workers in all three countries needed.

"Since the negotiations to improve the proposed USMCA began last year, we have been deeply involved in identifying essential changes to help working people, coordinating with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, House Democrats and other key leaders to address significant problems.

"The core concern has always been that companies profit by exploiting their workers – here, in Mexico and across the globe. "In Mexico, there are hundreds of thousands of so-called 'protection contracts' signed by corporations with sham unions that have no regard for the interests, rights or needs of workers. Workers at facilities in Mexico operated by some of the world's biggest and most profitable corporations are paid only a fraction of what workers get in the United States or Canada for essentially the same work. Workers who have attempted to form democratic unions have faced repression, violence and murder.

"The original USMCA required changes in Mexican labor law that we supported, as they were clearly better than current law. But the agreement had no clear path to ensure that workers' rights would be safeguarded. "The updated draft agreement now has enforcement provisions that can help make a difference. There is still a great deal of work to do in terms of implementing, monitoring and enforcing the provisions, but the base for progress is there.

"There were also problematic provisions in the original USMCA that showered U.S. drug companies with huge opportunities for higher monopoly profits. Democrats, working with labor, were able to eliminate this language from the agreement.

"In addition, the labor movement, working with Democrats and other key allies, was also able to beat back portions of the original USMCA that would have jeopardized our ability to protect a sustainable environment.

"The revised deal is better than the original USMCA and certainly better than NAFTA. It should be adopted. The leaders of all three countries must diligently enforce the provisions, however, and we intend to hold them accountable to ensure that workers, the environment and consumers are protected.

"No one should overplay this agreement's impact, or underestimate the work that remains to be done. Mexico must devote the money, resources and political will required to implement its commitments. The U.S. and Canadian governments must be active and vigilant in ensuring that companies respect workers' rights in all of their facilities.

"We also have concerns about definitions of aluminum sourced in North America as they exist in the agreement. We have been on the frontlines protecting jobs in smelting and casting, but leaders of all three countries should be equally invested in this industry.

"Speaker Pelosi, the members of the Democratic Working Group and key leaders such as Sens. Sherrod Brown and Ron Wyden deserve our thanks for their efforts and refusal to back down in the face of massive special interest lobbying. Mexican Senator Napoleón Gómez Urrutia should also be recognized for his key role in facilitating dialogue between the labor movement and the Mexican government.

"Outsourcing won't end as companies continue to search the globe for places where they can profit off of the hard work of others, spoil the environment to improve their balance sheets and raise prices for basic needs. The fight for fair trade won't end with this agreement, but it's an agreement worth passing."

*The USW represents 850,000 men and women employed in metals, mining, pulp and paper, rubber, chemicals, glass, auto supply and the energy-producing industries, along with a growing number of workers in health care, public sector, higher education, tech and service occupations.*



**USW District 2 Rapid Response** - Submitted by Sue Browne, District 2 Rapid Response Coordinator

## UNITED STEELWORKERS **Rapid Response ACTION Call** EDUCATING • EMPOWERING • ENGAGING

January 16, 2020

### Every Worker Deserves Dignity

*It's time to pass the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act (H.R. 2474).*

Today, 441 workers at Materion, a beryllium-producing facility in Ohio, will cast their votes to become members of the United Steelworkers. Their organizing effort is driven by frustration with a company that ignores their health and safety concerns, dehumanizes them, and makes them feel as if they were replaceable liabilities. Their employer is forcing them to attend meetings run by company-hired union busters who tell them half-truths, belittle them, and provide no opportunity to ask questions.

*"Before the busters came in, we had more support. The meetings have been relentless. They have set out to divide and conquer and they have done just that." – A Materion worker*

Union supporters fear being fired by the company as retaliation if the vote doesn't go their way.

*"This is our asses on the line. If this doesn't happen, I may not have a job to come back to – I am an at-will employee and they have made that clear. Now I have a target on my back for trying to stand up for myself and my coworkers." – Another Materion worker*



Sister Kathy Pallin sorts signs as supporters of the organizing drive prepare for a solidarity action at Materion's gates.

We need the PRO Act. This bill would prohibit employers like Materion from forcing their employees to attend anti-union meetings. It would establish civil penalties of up to \$50,000 for employers who illegally retaliate against workers for organizing, so workers do not have to fear losing their jobs for standing up for themselves. And that's just the start. It is the most comprehensive pro-labor legislation since the establishment of the National Labor Relations Act of 1935.

A vote is expected in the coming weeks in the U.S. House. Representatives need to know their support for the PRO Act is both essential and expected. Every worker must have the fundamental right to organize without unfair and illegal discrimination by employers. Corporations are weighing in. We must too!

### Make a Quick Call Today!

#### Action Instructions:

- Dial our toll-free number to the U.S. House: 866-202-5409. You will be automatically routed to your Representative's office.
- Tell the office who you are and where you are from, and ask your Representative to VOTE YES on the PRO Act (H.R. 2474).

**#PROACTNOW**

UNITED STEELWORKERS  
**USW**

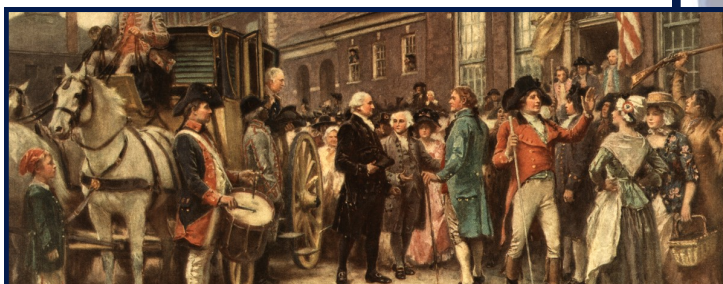
USW Rapid Response • (412) 562-2291 • <http://www.uswrr.org> • [www.facebook.com/USWRapidResponse](https://www.facebook.com/USWRapidResponse)

**"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"**



## First U.S. Presidential Election & Electoral College • January 7, 1789 - The History Channel.com

Congress sets January 7, 1789, as the date by which states are required to choose electors for the country's first-ever presidential election. A month later, on February 4, **George Washington** was elected president by state electors and sworn into office on April 30, 1789.

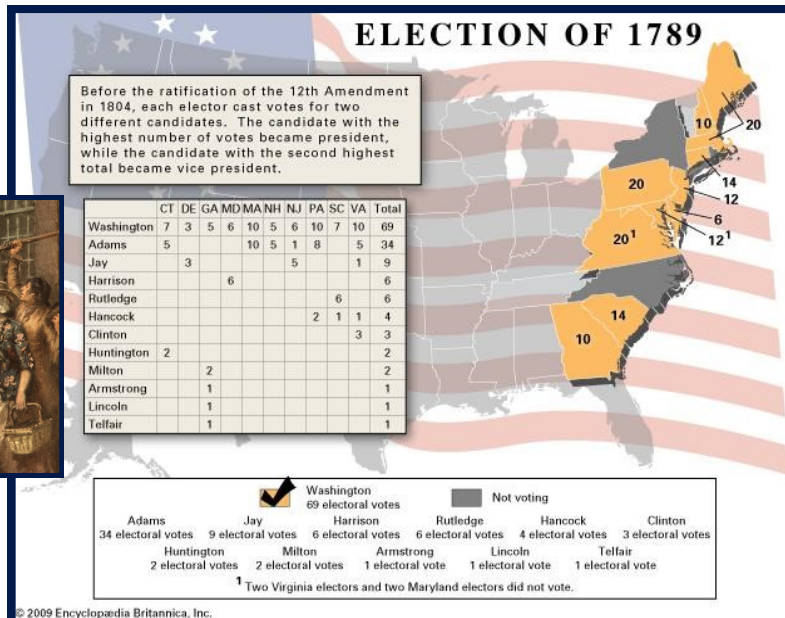


As it did in 1789, the United States still uses the Electoral College system established by the U.S. Constitution, which, today, gives all American citizens over the age of 18 the right to vote for electors, who in turn vote for the president. The president and vice president are the only elected federal officials chosen by the Electoral College instead of by direct popular vote.

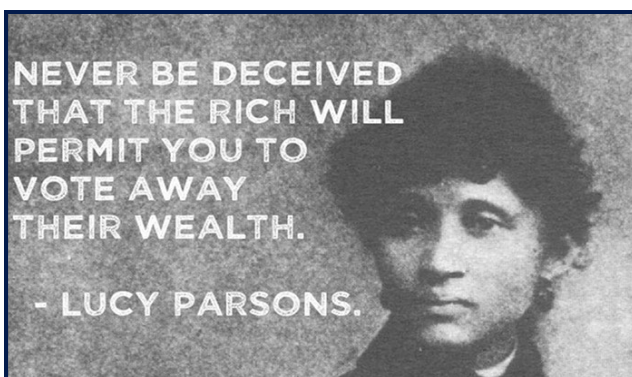
Today, political parties usually nominate their slate of electors at their state conventions or by a vote of the party's central state committee, with party loyalists often being picked for the job. Members of the U.S. Congress, though, can't be electors. Each state is allowed to choose as many electors as it has senators and representatives in Congress. During a presidential election year, on Election Day (the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November), the electors from the party that gets the most popular votes are elected in a winner-take-all-system, with the exception of Maine and Nebraska, which allocate electors proportionally. In order to win the presidency, a candidate needs a majority of 270 electoral votes out of a possible 538.

On the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December of a presidential election year, each state's electors meet, usually in their state capitol, and simultaneously cast their ballots nationwide. This is largely ceremonial because electors nearly always vote with their party, presidential elections are essentially decided on Election Day. Although electors aren't constitutionally mandated to vote for the winner of the popular vote in their state, it is demanded by tradition and required by law in 26 states and the District of Columbia (in some states, violating this rule is punishable by \$1,000 fine). Historically, over 99 percent of all electors have cast their ballots in line with the voters. On January 6, as a formality, the electoral votes are counted before Congress and on January 20, the commander in chief is sworn into office.

Critics of the Electoral College argue that the winner-take-all system makes it possible for a candidate to be elected president even if he gets fewer popular votes than his opponent. This happened in the elections of 1824, 1876, 1888, 2000 and 2016. However, supporters contend that if the Electoral College were done away with, heavily populated states such as California and Texas might decide every election and issues important to voters in smaller states would be ignored.



## This Day in Labor History • January 17, 1915 - Union Review



On January 17, 1915, organized and led by radical labor organizer, **Lucy Parsons**, more than 1,500 people march in Chicago, demanding relief from hunger and high levels of unemployment in the city.

Parsons was described by the Chicago Police Department as "more dangerous than a thousand rioters."

# "GO BUILD OUR UNION!"



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
JANUARY 9, 2020

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## USW Sues EPA to Save Chemical Disaster Rule

(Pittsburgh) – The United Steelworkers (USW) today announced that it filed a lawsuit challenging the federal government's decision to gut a regulation intended to prevent chemical disasters and save lives.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) capitulated to industry demands by rescinding crucial provisions of the Chemical Disaster Rule that bolstered EPA's Risk Management Program regulations, including requirements that companies take commonsense actions to prevent foreseeable catastrophic incidents.

"Eliminating these requirements will allow a profit-hungry industry to police itself while putting workers, first responders and the public at risk," said USW International President Tom Conway. "The USW spent years advocating for the Chemical Disaster Rule. Thousands of our members signed petitions imploring the EPA not to gut it. Now, we're going to court to protect our members and our communities."

The USW's lawsuit asks the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to implement the Chemical Disaster Rule as the EPA originally wrote it, before the current administration took office.

The USW and other safety advocates called for stronger regulation following a string of deadly incidents, including the 2005 fire and explosions at BP's Texas City, Texas, oil refinery that killed 15 contractors, and the 2010 fire and blast at Tesoro's Anacortes, Wash., refinery that killed a supervisor and six workers represented by the USW.

Recent incidents at USW facilities subject to Risk Management Program requirements demonstrate that U.S. workers and their communities still urgently need the full protections of the Chemical Disaster Rule. In June, USW members' quick thinking prevented a catastrophic amount of highly toxic hydrofluoric acid from escaping into the community during a fire and explosions at Philadelphia Energy Solutions. In November, explosions at a TPC chemical plant in Port Neches, Texas, forced tens of thousands of residents to flee their homes and threatened the livelihoods of USW members at the facility.

*The USW represents 850,000 men and women employed in metals, mining, pulp and paper, rubber, chemicals, glass, auto supply and the energy-producing industries, along with a growing number of workers in public sector and service occupations.*

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## USW D2 Southern MI Women of Steel Quarterly Meeting - Submitted by Linda Lucas

It was a busy day when the Southeastern Michigan Women of Steel council met on January 17 at the southern Michigan sub-district office located in Taylor. Echo Berezny (Local 690L) described the itinerary as, "a long but fulfilling day at our Women of Steel Council meeting. We were able to see the Town Hall meeting presentation. I also participated in the Town Hall meeting held at the LU 1299 hall where many retirees attended. It was really interesting seeing the different groups react to the message and the different feedback they had."

Echo continued talking about the WOS meeting, "We also filled blessing bag purses and tote bags. It was amazing how many donations we were able to collect and all of the sisters working together to fill 87 of them. Thanks to everyone who donated."

Echo was excited about an opportunity they were presented with. She explained, "Isabel and I were given the honor and privilege of delivering them (blessing bags) to the HOPE center in Pontiac. We even were able to pass them out to some of the people in the shelter. It was such a blessing to be able to see the gratitude the people had when receiving the bags. I can't wait to do it again. It's really eye opening how excited these people are to get hygiene items. The HOPE center receives very little funding and few organizations donate to them. I really hope we are able to bless them again."

She concluded, "I love being part of our great Union, our amazing Women of Steel Council and our fabulous local. All of which makes these things possible; and especially the WOS for organizing these events and drives."

Isabel Anzures-Barth (Local 690L) commented, "I have to say today was an amazing day for me as a WOS! I love attending our meeting, coming together with other women in our district and USW as a whole. Today, we not only received some education, we also came together with our donations from each local and made blessing bags. Echo and I delivered these bags to HOPE Warming Center - to men and women that were so thankful. It gave my heart such joy. I love being a part of something bigger than myself. Thank you for the opportunity to represent our local and thank you all that helped collect supplies."

Women of Steel council meetings are held quarterly throughout the District and are open to USW sisters and brothers.



## USW Local 904L Coat, Hat and Mitten Collection - Submitted by USW Local 904L



Local 904L in Sun Prairie, WI, has collected coats, hats, and mittens for those in need for nine consecutive years and gives them to the Salvation Army in Madison, WI, where the articles are distributed. The joy of the people receiving these donated items makes the collection all worth the effort.

A huge thank you to the members of Local 904L for donating the gently used items! A special shout out is deserved to the one member who takes the time to make hats, mittens and scarves for this annual event. There are also some members that buy new gloves and donate them. This year will mark 10 years for the collection!

## USW Local 2-20 Helps Kaukauna Area School District - Submitted by Jason Wilcox

The Kaukauna Area School District reported on social media their appreciation for USW Local 2-20. Their post stated:

"Kaukauna Area School District (KASD) was the recipient of an act of good will. The local United Steelworkers from Ahlstrom-Munsjo (formerly the Thilmany Mill in Kaukauna) recently held a 50-50 raffle and donated half of the proceeds to KASD Food Service for unpaid student meal balances.

We would like to extend a special 'thank you' to those involved in helping make this donation possible and the help that you've provided for our students."



Lee Koehler, Tyler Rutten and Pam Mischler Chartwells



## USW District 2 Milwaukee Women of Steel Quarterly Meeting - Submitted by Cindy Odden

The Southern Wisconsin Women of Steel quarterly meeting was held in Milwaukee on January 24, 2020. The day consisted of a full itinerary. The meeting started with a USW Town Hall Engagement meeting given by Director Michael Bolton, Art Kroll, Denny Lauer and Sue Browne, which was followed by great networking, upcoming events, a calendar exercise, and good and welfare of the group. Next, a convoy of vehicles full of food collected from the area's local unions traveled to the Hunger Task Force. The WOS received a warm welcome from Michele Ann McCormack who helped unload the cars. Then Kyle Buehner (Community Relations Manager) gave a great tour and provided an educational background on the distribution of all the food donated.



Hunger Task Force "believes that every person has a right to adequate food obtained with dignity. We work to prevent hunger and malnutrition by providing food to people in need today and by promoting social policies to achieve a hunger-free community tomorrow. Our core values are justice, compassion, stewardship and dignity. Our goal and mission is to end hunger in our community and state."

Hunger Task Force's mission and their Free & Local model are unique. Unlike national food bank chains, Hunger Task Force does not charge local pantries for food, delivery or network membership fees. They believe that healthy food should be provided free of charge based upon need, not upon an organization's ability

to pay. Their organization is supported 100% by the local community - donors support Hunger Task Force because they believe in the Free & Local model to end hunger.

According to their website, "Low-wage jobs continue to force more families into situations where they have to choose between feeding their children and paying for rent or utilities. Over time, Hunger Task Force has taken food banking to the next level, serving as the state's primary administrator of several federal commodity programs, including The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and the Commodity Supplement Food Program (CSFP) or Stock box for hungry seniors."



## USW District 2 Women of Steel District Meeting - Submitted by Tonya DeVore

### WOS District Meeting – Two Days of Education, Networking & Fun!

The WOS District Meeting will be held March 23-24, 2020, in conjunction with the D2 Conference at the Red Lion Hotel Paper Valley in Appleton, Wisconsin.

This year's agenda is one like no other. The itinerary entails too much to mention in this article, but part of it includes putting together blessing bags and conducting a white elephant auction.

Donations for the blessing bags are greatly appreciated. Items must be travel size and include: deodorant, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, laundry soap pods, playing cards, crayons, socks, mittens, gloves, lotions, toothbrushes, dental floss, hand and foot warmers, etc. **Please no food, gum, candies, or mints, etc., in blessing bags.** Also needed (but too large for blessing bags): batteries, long underwear, socks, paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, Kleenex, garbage bags, plastic gloves, hand sanitizers and all-purpose cleaners.

The WOS are also currently accepting items for the white elephant auction. The only requirement is the item(s) must be made in the USA. Items will continue to be collected through March 23. If you have any questions or have an item you'd like to donate, please see your local Women's committee.

It will be exciting to see everyone at the conference this year!

**"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"**

## USW Free College Benefit for Union Members!

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or call **888-590-9009**



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