



# GOLDEN LODGE NEWS

Volume 71, No. 4

Winter 2024



## *Season's Greetings*

*From the  
Officers,  
Committee Members, and  
Office Staff*

## By-Laws Committee to start over, Stand Up for Safety events



As we move into the winter months, remember it is all new for the majority of drivers. Or at least that is the way it seems every year during the first couple of snowstorms. Please be patient.

A few months ago, I put together a By-Laws Committee. They met multiple times, produced recommendations and they were read at three consecutive union meetings. The vote was held, and it was turned down. The committee has gotten back together to make some changes and corrections that were of concern. We will start the process of reading these amended changes at the required consecutive union meetings and have another vote.

**By Willis McCoy**  
*President*

On November 9, 2024, we hosted the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Veterans breakfast. I want to thank all of our volunteers and donors for making this such a successful event. As the Stand Up for Safety events start wrapping up, I want to thank all of our safety team members for the job they did putting this together. I also want to thank our members for your participation. I appreciate the commitment to your safety and to the safety of our Sisters and Brothers. On the business side of things, it is my understanding that we have picked up some orders and we should start seeing them soon. Have a safe and joyful holiday season everyone.

## The New FSP Bloom Furnace

Anyone who has been to FSP lately may have noticed the sizable hole in the ground on the north side of the Rolling Mill. This is the location of the site for the new reheat furnace that we had the ground-breaking for awhile back. This is a huge investment project undertaken by Metallus.

Multiple contractors have been involved thus far and I would like to thank the Rolling Mill operators, pit crane attendants, supervision, and the contractors. The great communication used between everyone involved has allowed this project to happen safely.

Continued participation and vigilance are still needed moving forward to continue these safe practices.

We have dealt with road closures, increased traffic in certain areas and the re-routing of traffic to other areas due to congestion.

The funding from the US Army of up to \$99 million will support the installation of a continuous bloom reheat furnace which is critical to our partnership with the U.S. Department of Defense.

This will strengthen our capabilities in support of our national defense. The new technology will meet the growing demand for both existing and new customers.

Here are some of the furnace highlights:

**By Mike Henderson**

*FSP Union Safety Rep*

Max bloom length off the caster increases from 11'8" to 14'. 180 tph (tons per hour) on the 14' high carbon, cold charged bloom.

Up to 220 tph hot charge capability.

The double row walking beam furnace will be able to hold up to 108 -18" x 24" blooms.

It will reduce fork truck interaction with overhead crane loads by having a designated loading table for product going to the reheat furnace

The new reheat furnace safety and operational plan is to automate and minimize as much human interaction as possible.

Controlled temperature uniformity – less scrap bars, less cobbles on the mill that result in unplanned work that would increase the risk for team-mates during non-routine work.

I am extremely pleased that the Golden Lodge USRs have been involved with this project. From seeing the plans, meeting with contractors, watching it unfold and changing daily. I believe this is a huge win for Union Safety. Previously, to the best of my knowledge, we have not been a part of such a large-scale investment.

*Never before has there been a USW flag flown at the steel plants. Here's the one at FSP. #UnionStrong*



# 2025 Pension Deposit Dates

There are four different pension deposit dates per month for Golden Lodge retirees, surviving spouses and other recipients.

Those dates depend upon whether the retiree is from Steel or Bearing. If they retired from Bearing, the date of their retirement determines the pay date. For Steel it depends on the gross amount of their pension.

Metallus retirees whose *gross* monthly pension is more than \$2000, are paid out on the 28th of the month, unless it falls on a weekend. Then it will be deposited on the last business day before the 28th.

Metallus does not mail out monthly pension statements. Those retirees can access their statements by creating an account on the Northern Trust site. [www.northerntrust.com/bppweb](http://www.northerntrust.com/bppweb).

In October in 2022, Timken-Steel retirees whose monthly *gross* pension is less than \$2000 became participants in the Prudential annuity, which is deposited on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month.

Timken Company Annuity (prior to December 31, 2014) is supposed to be deposited on the last day of each month. If that date is not a business day it seems to depend on the financial institution when it is deposited.

The Timken Company Post Annuity (after January 1, 2015) is deposited on the last business day of each month.

Social Security deposits are on Wednesdays of the month and depend on the birthdate (day) of the recipient.

- Birth date 1<sup>st</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> is the second Wednesday of month.
- Birth date 11<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> is the third Wednesday of month.
- Birthdate 21<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> is the fourth Wednesday of month.

The chart below represents dates using the information provided to us and we apologize for any discrepancies.

***"Say goodbye to tension and hello to your pension."***

## GOLDEN LODGE NEWS

### GOLDEN LODGE NEWS STAFF

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Chris Tunney, Associate Editor

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[www.uswlocals.org/golden-lodge-local-1123](http://www.uswlocals.org/golden-lodge-local-1123)

MONTH	METALLUS >\$2K	METALLUS <\$2K ANNUITY	TIMKEN CO. ANNUITY	TIMKEN CO. POST ANNUITY	MONTH	METALLUS >\$2K	METALLUS <\$2K ANNUITY	TIMKEN CO. ANNUITY	TIMKEN CO. POST ANNUITY
JANUARY	28th	1st	31st	31st	JULY	28th	1st	31st	31st
FEBRUARY	28th	1st	28th	28th	AUGUST	28th	1st	31st	29th
MARCH	28th	1st	31st	28th	SEPTEMBER	26th	1st	30th	30th
APRIL	28th	1st	30th	30th	OCTOBER	28th	1st	31st	31st
MAY	28th	1st	31st	30th	NOVEMBER	28th	1st	30th	28th
JUNE	27th	1st	30th	30th	DECEMBER	26th	1st	31st	31st

# Veterans Breakfast 2024 - Freedom is never free

On Saturday morning, November 9<sup>th</sup> the Golden Lodge hosted its 17<sup>th</sup> annual Veterans Breakfast.

The celebration is open to all veterans and their families. Special thanks go out to the Golden Lodge Executive Board, the Kitchen Committee, Boy Scout Troop 16, Cub Scout Pack 16.

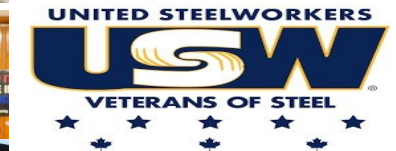
Thanks also to all the volunteers who set up the event, coordinated the catering, and dished out the 200 delicious Mr. Mike's catered breakfast meals.

We are very grateful to Richard Biebenbach and the American Legion Post 44, in Canton, Ohio, Honor Guard, for their 21 gun salute and the playing of taps. As a military tradition, this is the highest honor rendered and was perfectly performed.

This year we contacted area businesses for donations to offset some of the costs and we were generously rewarded. Thank you to all who responded.

Monetary donations came in from Metallus Inc, Timken Company, Loudon Motors, Sarchoine, and Hogs Helping Heroes. Victoria Warner from Mission BBQ helped serve folks and donated a gift basket as a door prize. The Veterans Service Commission was also on-site for VA assistance and a display station with flyers, brochures, information and decals.

Lastly, our heartfelt thanks to the members of the Golden Lodge for approving the funds needed for this event. This breakfast is just a small measure of our appreciation for area veterans. Serving those who served us.



*...photos continued on page 5*



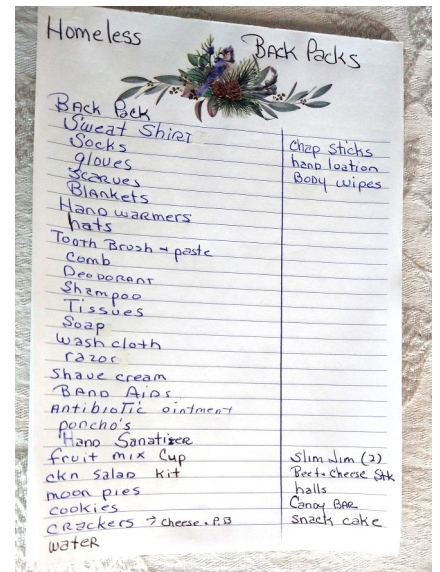
*Miranda and Greg Brinkerhoff, Kenny Young and Chuck Morris serving breakfast for everyone*

## Paying it forward during this Season of Giving

All year long, Dave and Ruby Laher collect toys for tots and items for the homeless. This past year, they have accumulated over \$5000 worth for the area's local charities. The Domestic Violence Project, Inc. [www.dvpi.org](http://www.dvpi.org), and Refuge of Hope <https://refugeofhope.org/> received their generous donations. Thank you to everyone who helped and volunteered for all these worthy causes for this Holiday season.



*Ruby Laher and a small portion of their donated items*



*Soft, cuddly and weighted stress toys for kids*



*Here is a sample of the backpacks for the homeless*



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

**KENNETH L. SELWAY**, Age 78, Dept. 13, passed away June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Brother Selway joined the Union in 1964 and retired in 2005.

**JOHN L. SHAFER**, Age 88, Wooster Plant, passed away January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Brother Shafer joined the Union in 1959 and retired in 1995.

**WILLARD E. TALKINGTON**, Age 81, Dept. 753, passed away May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Brother Talkington joined the Union in 1966 and retired in 1996.

**WILLA MARIE SWOFFORD**, Age 85, Dept. 79, passed away August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Sister Swofford joined the Union in 1964 and retired in 1994.

**FRANKLIN J. SIMON**, Age 84, Dept. 190, passed away August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Brother Simon joined the Union in 1966 and retired in 2002.

**SHIRLEY T. GARDNER**, Age 85, Dept. 82, passed away August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Sister Gardner joined the Union in 1969 and retired in 2000.

**VIRGIL D. MORRIS, JR.**, Age 83, Dept. 189, passed away August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Brother Morris joined the Union in 1973 and retired in 2001.

**JAMES E. MENEGAY**, Age 87, Dept. 78, passed away September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Brother Menegay joined the Union in 1956 and retired in 1999.

**GARY L. BLYTHE**, Age 83, Dept. 190, passed away September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Brother Blythe joined the Union in 1965 and retired in 1998.

**BARRY J. HEIKS**, Age 71, Dept. 189, passed away September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Brother Heiks joined the Union in 1973 and retired in 2008.

**CHARLENE S. GOSSETT**, Age 76, Dept. 75, passed away September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. Sister Gossett joined the Union in 1973 and retired in 2009.

**LYNN D. ROTH**, Age 81, Dept. 68, passed away September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Brother Roth joined the Union in 1964 and retired in 1999.

**VIRGIL L. BYER**, Age 77, Dept. 755, passed away September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Brother Byer joined the Union in 1969 and retired in 2001.

**WAYNE G. HAMILTON**, Age 74, Dept. 751, passed away September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Brother Hamilton joined the Union in 1969 and retired in 2002.

**RICHARD C. GREEN**, Age 86, Dept. 98, passed away October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Brother Green joined the Union in 1966 and retired in 1997.

**KENNETH D. HEID**, Age 91, Dept. RPP, passed away October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Brother Heid joined the Union in 1955 and retired in 1992.

**EDWARD L. MCCALL**, Age 83, Dept. 75, passed away October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Brother McCall joined the Union in 1974 and retired in 2000.

**GEORGE P. PANTAGES**, Age 85, Dept. 135, passed away October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Brother Powell joined the Union in 1961 and retired in 1998.

**JEFFRY P. SNYDER**, Age 82, Dept. 13, passed away October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Brother Snyder joined the Union in 1964 and retired in 2000.

**JOHN R. POWELL**, Age 73, Dept. 86, passed away October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Brother Powell joined the Union in 1969 and retired in 2000.

**WALTER D. RHODES**, Age 89, Dept. 753, passed away October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Brother Rhodes joined the Union in 1966 and retired in 1997.

**ALICE A. ROBERSON**, Age 76, Dept. 75, passed away November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. Sister Roberson joined the Union in 1969 and retired in 2004.

**DARLENE M. HASTINGS**, Age 80, Dept. 185, passed away November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Sister Hastings joined the Union in 2000 and retired in 2009.

**GLENN E. WOODARD**, Age 71, Dept. 189, passed away November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Brother Woodard joined the Union in 1973 and retired in 2006.

**DWYANE C. BRADLEY**, Age 83, Dept. 185, passed away November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Brother Bradley joined the Union in 1962 and retired in 1988.

**CARL J. PORRINI**, Age 75, Dept. 185, passed away November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Brother Porrino joined the Union in 1969 and retired in 2004.

**FRED J. BARR**, Age 83, Dept. 68, passed away November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Brother Barr joined the Union in 1959 and retired in 1989.



# SAFETY CORNER



## Safety Stand Ups

**By Brock McDevitt**

*HSP Union Safety Rep*

As of now, all of our active members have been through the Safety Stand Ups. This has progressed from the Safety Stand Downs that were previously hosted downtown in the auditorium that consisted of PowerPoint presentations with multiple speakers.

This year the Safety Stand Ups were hosted at Gambrinus in the old firehouse. This area will be our new training facility soon. Most future training will take place there.

We hosted our first Stand Up on October 21<sup>st</sup> and by November 25<sup>th</sup> we had about 1100 members attend. Also, attending that day were several representatives from our international travelling from Pittsburgh.

The Stand Ups consisted of 10 different stations that groups stop at while walking through. Each stop is approximately 10 minutes discussing our individual STKY (stuff that kills you) programs.

Speaking at the booths were a mixture of our Union Safety

representatives, salary safety folks, and management.

This approach is more interactive and hands on than previously and has resulted in some very good feedback. Listed below are the 10 different stops of the presentation.

- Luck Factor
- Lockout / Tag out / Try out
- Work at heights
- Machine safeguards
- Confined space
- Mobile equipment
- Hot work
- Crane & rigging
- Mental health (Video)
- Individual commitment

We would like to thank everyone who helped and attended this year. We are looking to continually improve this with even more time to prepare.



## Coming Events

### Steward Classes

2nd Wednesday of the month

9:00 am / 4:30 pm

### Regular Union Meetings

3rd Wednesday of the month

9:00 am / 4:30 pm

### December 23-24-25 Jan 1\*

Bearing Paid Holidays

### December 24-25-26 Jan 1\*

Steel Paid Holidays

### January 1-15

Vacation Sign-up period

*\*Union negotiated benefit*

### *Recent Retirees*

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

*Penny Dayton*

*Keith Stahler*

*Donald Ferrell*

*Chad Adams*

*James Edwards*

*Deshawna Campbell*



*Participating in the Safety Stand Ups were Golden Lodge and International Union representatives as well as members of Metallus Inc. From left: USW - Steve Sallman, Juan Zuniga, George Hall, Bill Conner, Nick Young, Donnie Blatt, Sean Els, Willis McCoy and Ed Smith. Metallus - Jen Krakora, Carolee Vanicek, Stefani Townsend and Eric Pfeiffer.*

# 2025 Medicare and SSA Changes

**2025 Medicare Key takeaways:** Changes from the Inflation Reduction Act will take effect next year. Lower out of pocket limit in Part D drug plans erases the old “donut hole.” You may find weight loss drugs covered to treat other medical conditions. Your Medicare Advantage plan may not stay the same. Look for a midyear statement from your MA plan. Caregivers for loved ones with dementia may be eligible for respite care. More mental health counselors are encouraged to enroll as providers.

You can thank the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 for some of the biggest Medicare changes in the past few years, including a welcome reprieve from the high costs of prescription drugs.

Among the changes: In 2023, Medicare capped covered insulin costs in Part D prescription drug plans at \$35 a month and eliminated out of pocket costs for recommended vaccines.

In 2024, the government announced results Aug. 15 of negotiations to reduce the costs of ten of Medicare’s most expensive drugs. Those prices will take effect in 2026.

Other Medicare changes that can make a difference in 2025, includes Medicare Advantage midyear coverage notices and stricter marketing rules, expanded benefits for family caregivers and access to more mental health providers.

In 2025, Part D plans can have a deductible up to \$590. Then you pay copayments for your medications until your total out-of-pocket costs reach \$2,000. The \$2,000 out-of-pocket spending cap applies to deductibles, copayments and coinsurance in the prescription drug portion of Medicare Advantage plans. It doesn’t apply to premiums or to drugs a plan doesn’t cover.

Expanded program for family caregiver services: A program for dementia patients and their caregivers that launched this year will quadruple in 2025, serving more of the country. The program provides a 24/7 support line, a care navigator to find medical services and community-based assistance, caregiver training and up to \$2,500 a year for at-home, overnight or adult day care respite services. Patients and their caregivers typically won’t have copayments.

Here are some Medicare copays and deductibles for 2025: Medicare Part A covers inpatient hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, hospice, inpatient rehabilitation, and some home health care services. The

Medicare Part A inpatient hospital deductible that beneficiaries pay if admitted to the hospital will be \$1,676 in 2025, The Part A inpatient hospital deductible covers beneficiaries’ share of costs for the first 60 days of Medicare-covered inpatient hospital care in a benefit period.

The standard monthly premium for Medicare Part B, the part of Medicare that covers doctor’s visits, routine cancer screenings, home health care and other outpatient services will be \$185 for 2025, The annual deductible for all Medicare Part B beneficiaries is also going up in 2025, rising from \$240 in 2024 to \$257.

Prescription drugs: The annual out-of-pocket drug cap is \$2,000. After paying a deductible of \$590, beneficiaries pay 25% of their drug costs until they reach the cap. Once they reach the cap, they enter catastrophic coverage and pay no additional out-of-pocket costs.

**Biggest Social Security Changes for 2025:** Monthly payments are going up, and drop-in service at SSA offices is largely going away.

The Social Security Administration announced a 2.5 percent cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) in 2025, Service at Social Security offices: Since April 2022, when local Social Security offices reopened after two years of pandemic restrictions, the SSA has been recommending customers seeking in-person help call ahead rather than dropping in.

In 2025, that recommendation becomes a requirement in most situations. To schedule an office visit, call the SSA’s national help line at 800-772-1213 or contact your local office. You can also access many SSA services online, if you have a My Social Security account, or by phone.



*Jim Blend and Tim Leek 2024 Golf League Champs*