



THE STEEL BULLETIN

Local 1688—Steelton

Issue #6: 4Q - 2022

Local Union Hall

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Steelton, Pa 17113

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From The Desk of The President

Good Day Brothers and Sisters,

Today I am writing with great sadness and excitement. I am retiring from the mill and union office as of January 31st, 2023 and starting a new chapter in my life. I have done union work since 1979 and have been president of our local since 2007. I hope I have done right by you and I hope you will give my successor the same support you have given me over the years.

Now for the mill at present. Overall we as a membership need to pull together to make this place survive. A lot of our management are giving a lot of lip service and still not doing what needs to be done. We need to clean up after ourselves, we also need to do the best job we can do to produce our products right the first time and keep reworking material to a minimum. We also need to take ownership in our equipment so we can keep delays to a minimum and improve productivity.

I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay safe and sober and remember that someone at home is waiting and depending on you.

In Solidarity
Your President
Ray Napoli

Letter from the Editor

Greetings Everyone,

As we wrap up 2022, I just want to say thank you to everyone who takes their time to read the Steel Bulletin, and a special shout out to all of you who have contributed to the newsletter over the past year and a half. We have some big things planned for 2023, including a new website and text messaging program for the local. The back page of the newsletter can be removed and hung up wherever you like and contains information for those as well as all the union meeting dates for 2023. I want to wish everyone a happy Holiday Season and Happy New Year.

In Solidarity,
Dave Myers

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Conference

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Local 1688 Officers**President:***Ray Napoli***Vice President:***Larue Hess***Recording Secretary:***Don Teets***Financial Secretary:***David Myers***Treasurer:***Jermaine Cobb***Trustees:***Jeff Yeingst**Elliot Saunders**Chad Donbach***Inside Guard:***Dustin Reigle***Outside Guard:***Steve Runkle***Guide:***Rau-Ru Weedon***Unit Griever:***Greg Reese***Zone Grievors:****Zone 1:** *Dustin Reigle***Zone 2:** *Larue Hess***Zone 3:** *Mark Wilson***Zone 4:** *Steve Runkle***Zone 5:** *Sean Pisle***Safety Chair:***Robert Crater Jr.***USW activists talk community, bargaining power at District 10 Civil and Human Rights Conference**

Members and activists of USW local unions across Pennsylvania gathered at Linden Hall for the District 10 Civil and Human Rights Conference the week of Oct. 31 to learn how to use bargaining power as a tool for change.

The roughly forty members participated in workshops focused on understanding power and privilege, fighting anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination, forming and utilizing Civil and Human Rights Committees within local unions, and unpacking how racism impacts health and safety. They also learned how to utilize social media and texting campaigns to engage their membership.

DeLisa Baldwin of Local 1688 said another way to get members involved and build strength as a union is to get out into the community.

“Our plant is in the middle of the city,” she said, “so it’s important for our union to volunteer and be seen and let them know we’re here and we care.”

Members at the conference also participated in the USW Health Care Workers Council’s first-ever workshop focused on protecting members’ access to medical and reproductive health care. Council Coordinator Tamara Lefcowitz outlined a new toolkit available to members and also detailed how local unions can bargain language in their contracts that benefit rural workers, including coverage of out-of-state travel expenses for specialty care like chemotherapy.

“Firstly, we want members to be educated on their right to ask for information from their employers,” said Lefcowitz. “We also want to promote the many different resources the union has available and the different paths members can take to protect each other.”

USW Vice President of Human Affairs Kevin Mapp ended the week with an address that called for holding the line and holding onto hope amidst the many challenges facing the labor and civil rights movements.

“It truly is going to take each and every one of us, as individual labor activists, to meet people where they are and move with them into the future,” said Mapp on Thurs., Nov. 3., the final day of the conference.

District 10 Director Bernie Hall also closed out the conference with a reminder of the importance of union members using their collective power to fight for the working class.

“If it weren’t for unions, no one would be out there advocating for workers and lobbying legislators on behalf of our interests,” said Hall. “We have to show up face-to-face.”

Mapp handed out certificates to everyone who completed the week’s seminar, along with District 10 Civil and Human Rights Coordinator Leroy Atwater, who invited the members to keep the work they did at the conference moving forward.

“The best part about this week is the fellowship” Atwater told them. “All we ask now is that you take something you learned here back to your locals.”

Source:

<https://www.usw.org/news/media-center/articles/2022/usw-activists-talk-community-bargaining-power-at-district-10-civil-and-human-rights-conference>



Women Of Steel

In October Crissy Boynton and Delisa Baldwin attended Linden Hall for the Civil Rights and WOS level 3 conference. They learned about organizing, understanding power and privilege, fighting anti LGBTQ+ discrimination, forming and utilizing civil and human rights committees within local unions and how racism impacts health and safety. They came back empowered and ready to share with other ladies what they learned!



WOS 1688 are partnering with United Way and Catholic Charities to do a community service project for the future that would show case woman who work in non-traditional (trades) field. This project will lead to having trade women speak to other women empowering them to seek non-traditional employment. Look for us in the spring!

*Let your need be, to help those in need.

Remember we are all woman of steel!

Upcoming WOS/Community service meetings held quarterly in the upstairs conference room at 3:30 pm on:

- Tuesday December 13th**
- Tuesday March 14th**
- Tuesday June 13th**



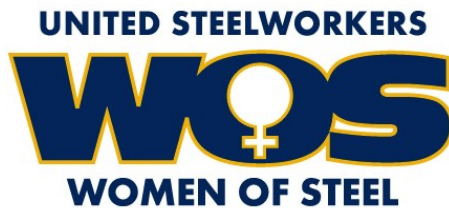
The WOS 1688 would like to give special thanks to our District 10 ladies, Charlene Crawford, Kelly Ames Weaver and Kisha Byrd for their assistance in the negotiations to acquire Domestic Violence leave in our new contract. We appreciate all your encouragement and support!

We would also like to give a shout out



to our local 1688 for their \$300 donation to the Little Rollers Cheerleaders.

We encourage everyone to stay and attend our regular union meeting following immediately after.



USW Local 1688
Women of Steel
Committee

Crissy Boynton

Cboynton1688@gmail.com

DeLisa Baldwin

Dbaldwin1688@gmail.com

Vanessa Jenkins

Vjenkins1688@gmail.com

Steelton Plant Grievance Committee

Committee Chairman

Gregory Reese 717-329-0024

Committee Secretary

Larue Hess 717-798-1666

Zone 1—Rail Mill Department

Grievance Committeeman:

Dustin Reigle 717-303-8959

Assistant Committeemen:

Randy Porr 717-286-6750

Delisa Baldwin 717-782-1853

Zone 2 - 20" Mill Department -

Metallurgical Department -

Technical Group

Grievance Committeeman:

Steve Runkle 717-903-8190

Assistant Committeemen:

Steve Verbois 717-579-9197

Zone 3 Operations Support Group Department – Mechanical Support & Plant Services LOP's and Slag Processing (Heckett)

Grievance Committeeman:

Marc Wilson 570-590-3172

Assistant Committeemen:

Seth Lenker 717-805-3282

Zone 4 Assigned Maintenance – Operations Support Group De- partment – Electrical Support LOP

Grievance Committeeman:

Larue Hess 717-798-1666

Assistant Committeemen:

Dave Scott 717-226-8974

Don Teets 717-856-6234

Zone 5 Steelmaking Department

Grievance Committeeman:

Sean Pisle 717-554-0501

Assistant Committeemen:

Rau-Ru Weedon 717-460-2500

Jason Reitmeyer 717-858-1494

Steelton-Highspire Railroad

Unit Chair/Griever:

Steve Smiley 717-919-9322



Make the Call: Tips for Making Calls to Congress

Our experience from over 20 years of Rapid Response actions is that calls matter and our voices have power. They bring awareness to an issue and influence lawmakers. The more calls, the more impact.

Here are tips for making calls to Congress, especially for first-time callers:

I'm not sure who to call.

Our toll-free number makes it easy. When you dial the number provided on a Rapid Response Action Call for the first time, you will be asked for your zip code. That number will route you to the correct Senator or Representative. If you are asked to call both Senators, call a second time to be automatically routed to your other Senator.

Who picks up the phone?

Staff assistants or interns typically answer calls. For some offices, a recording plays and then you are given the option to leave a message.

I'm not that familiar with the issue. What do I say?

Don't feel like you need to be an expert. Whenever Rapid Response asks for calls, we include suggested things to say. Most importantly:

-Tell the person your name and where you are from. It is important for the office to know you live in the district or state they are representing.

-Share your position on the issue you are calling about. Make sure to reference the bill number, the name of the bill, and any other pertinent information (reference the Rapid Response information for these details).

How long does it take?

Most calls only take a minute. The staffer answering the phone often only wants to know who you are, where you are from, and if you support or oppose an issue so it can be noted. That's it!

I've never called before. I'm nervous!

Most people are surprised at how easy it is after making their first call. However, you can also call after business hours and leave a message on your Senator or Representative's voicemail.

What if I want my call to make a bigger impact?

Ask to speak with the legislative aide who handles the topic area you are calling about. Share how the issue relates to you and your members. Ask for a response from the office. Get others to join you in making a call. When groups of people are calling at the same time, an office is forced to take note!

I wasn't able to get through. Now what?

Sometimes when Congress is debating a major issue, high call volume can overwhelm an office. You can try calling the district offices instead.

Please report to Rapid Response if this is happening. Find out the phone numbers by looking up your Representative or Senators at www.house.gov or www.senate.gov.

Calling State Lawmakers: Every state has a different structure. We will adjust our instructions on Action Calls as needed. Most of the same principles for calling U.S. Senators and Representatives apply. For the greatest chance of easily connecting with your state lawmakers, join our mobile alerts and make sure to provide your address: text USWRapid to 69866.

Rapid Response information is shared through email. We also text action requests and information.

-To sign up for emails, visit the Rapid Response website at www.uswrr.org.

-To sign up for texting, text uswrapid to the number 69866. We don't text often - only when it really counts! You can stop at any time. Standard rates apply.

UNITED STEELWORKERS

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

What is this USW Emergency Response Team also known as the ERT team that we hear about? When do we need to notify the team? Is it mandatory participation? Who is on the team and what do they do?

These are all commonly asked questions that ERT team members hear at conferences, classes, Local meetings, and other gatherings of union members.

The USW merger with PACE in 2005 was in many ways a positive action. One program that came from PACE was the Emergency Response Team program which was adopted by the USW and mandated to be part of the newly merged entity, however; participation of the locals is optional during an incident. It is highly recommended to initiate the call when incidents happen for the best result and not having to "catch up" on valuable lost time as the incident evolves. The ERT Coordinator only works with the victim, family, Company officials, and the Local officers. The Safety Reps work with the Local officers, OSHA, and Company to investigate the incident scene etc. ERT and Safety Reps purposely DO NOT interact during incidents to best achieve our result.

Typically, workplace emergencies consist of "life altering" or "a fatality" or "both" in the USW represented facility. At that time, it is up to the Union member, Local President, or District Staff Rep to call and notify the Emergency Response Team Hotline. Please remember that the injured party need not be a local member but rather an injured person on the USW represented plant. Outside contractors, other union affiliates, and even in some cases, company staff. In the case of a non-USW member, the ERT Coordinator will come in and do initial contacts and then hand over to the other Union affiliate staff or Contractor companies to proceed with the incident or continue with the coverage if needed.

THE HOTLINE IS AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY AT 866-526-3480

When a call is made, please be patient and answer all the questions being asked as this will help in the correct services being dispatched to the incident if warranted. The on-

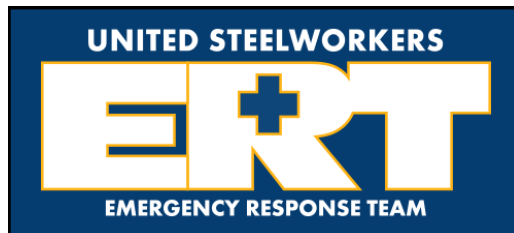
call members include the ERT program Coordinator Duronda Pope. There are roughly 62 (+ -) ERT coordinators nationwide to handle incidents in the USA, Canada, and Puerto Rico. Along with the ERT Coordinators, the USW Health, Safety, and Environmental staff or Health and Safety Reps. An incident happens roughly every 8 days of the year.

The purpose of ERT is to assist families and coworkers, to work with the Local Union officers and to provide follow up support, as well as:

- To serve as victim advocates
- Coordinate support for victims and families
- Finding lodging for the family members in the area where the injured member is being treated
- Act as a liaison between families and the employer and families and the local union
- Provide referrals to local therapists who understand the needs of organized labor and those dealing with loss and trauma
- Continued follow up with those involved in the incident
- Gather information about the health benefits and insurance of the injured member
- To provide mental health resources to families and affected co workers

Hopefully most of the questions that you may have about the program have been answered. If not, please see a District ERT Coordinator or a Local Union officer to put you in touch with one of the Coordinators. Want to be considered for an ERT Coordinator position? Contact your Local President which will contact the Staff Rep and District Director.

In Solidarity,
Michael Coyle
USW District 10, Local 1688
Emergency Response Team Coordinator
Congressional Coordinator



Contacts

Dennis Freed

-Plant Safety
Coordinator

--MEUIT

Robert Crater Jr.

-Union Safety Rep
-Rail Mill

Mike Segina

-SMD,Caster, SHRR

Allen Pettis

-20" Mill

Brandon Ward

-Caster

David Martin

-Finishing Mill

Mike Coyle

-ERT Coordinator

Fire Department

717-986-2777

International

Officers:

International

President:

Tom Conway

International

Secretary-Treasurer:

John Shinn

International

Vice President

(Administration):

Dave McCall

International

Vice President

(Human Affairs):

Kevin Mapp

International Vice

President at Large:

Roxanne Brown

International

Vice President:

Leeann Foster

District 10 Director:

Bernie Hall

-Notice-

Nomination of Officers

At the **January 10th** Union Meeting, **Nominations** will be held for the following Positions:

USW Local 1688

Vice President

Cleveland Cliffs—Steelton

Grievance Committee Zoneman—Zone 2 (Assigned Maintenance)

Steelton-Highspire Railroad

Unit President

Unit Griever

This is a nomination meeting only. All positions will be filled by a vote of the current elected board during the February meeting following the retirement of current President Ray Napoli. The results will be announced during the general membership meeting at 4:30pm on February 14th.

Stay Connected on Facebook:

USW 1688—Our public Facebook page that anyone can join.

USW 1688 Next Generation—A private Facebook group that is limited to current and retired members. This group is used to post updates and seek information and advice from coworkers.

USW Local 1688 WOS—The new Facebook group for our local’s Women of Steel committee with updates on everything they are doing.

Local Monthly Union Meetings

Join us at the union hall on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 4:30pm. We’ll cover news, financials and local issues, followed by a meal and beverages.

For a list of 2023 Meeting Dates, please see back page.

Local Communications

Local 1688 Text Messaging



GET SOCIAL



Scan here to sign up for local text messages

Local 1688 Website

<https://uswlocals.org/local-1688>

Website content is still being uploaded, but currently has a calendar including all union meeting dates as well as past editions of the Steel Bulletin



Scan here to go to the website

Union Meeting Dates for 2023

January 10th

February 14th

March 14th

April 11th

May 9th

June 13th

July 11th

August 8th

September 12th

October 10th

November 14th

December 12th

Monthly Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at **4:30pm**

I.W. Abel Hall

200 Gibson Street

Steelton Pa, 17113