

# Burleigh Bulletin

United Steelworkers Local 2-232 at Briggs & Stratton

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## Union Launches Organizing Committee

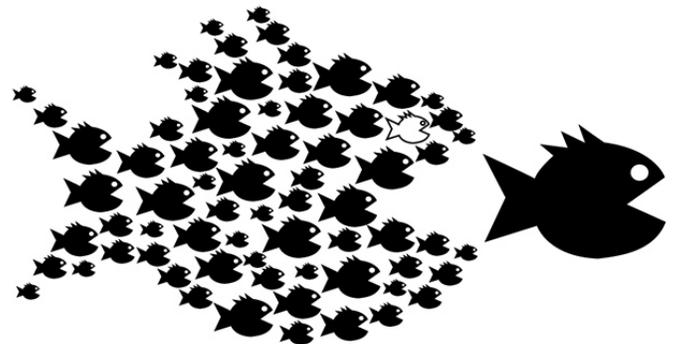
Enthusiasm for the union is palpable at Briggs & Stratton, especially among young workers and new members. We're building a whole new union, unlike anything that existed here in the past.

In 2020, we're embracing class struggle like never before. We understand that the working class and the billionaire class have nothing in common, and that the only way for us to get ahead as workers is to leverage our strength-in-numbers to fight for a better future.

In 2019, we laid the framework, electing stewards throughout all three plants. We made it easier to join the union, regained members, built momentum, and gained ground.

With the capacity we built in last year's drive, we're building an Organizing Committee to prepare the union for fights to come.

The OC will respond to situations, both in the shop and in the community, by mobilizing members for direct action. It will build solidarity



among workers. And by meeting regularly to develop and collectively implement a plan to get the Briggs & Stratton Unit ready to do whatever it takes, it will help us win a contract in 2021 that gives us the dignity we all expect in a union shop.

Organizing Committee members will be appointed by the Grievance Rep. If you're a member in good standing and you're interested, ask your steward for details.

## MALC Supports MPS Funding Referendum

Delegates of the Milwaukee Area Labor Council (MALC) unanimously passed an endorsement of the Milwaukee Public Schools referendum to appear on the April 7<sup>th</sup> ballot in the City of Milwaukee.

In a press release, Pam Fendt, president of the MALC said, "Thanks to an outdated funding formula, students at Milwaukee Public Schools are at a serious disadvantage compared to their suburban counterparts. I'm grateful for the opportunity to sit on the MPS Taskforce that voted to introduce this referendum. If State Legislators won't act, then we must act now to provide the resources needed for our students,

schools, and communities to thrive."

Passing the referendum on April 7<sup>th</sup> would put \$87 million toward the education of Milwaukee children. It would ensure that every classroom has basic supplies, every school has art, music, and physical education, and that students have access to supportive services like nurses psychologists and social workers.

Importantly, an increase in funds would provide career and technical education to every student who is interested.

The Milwaukee Area Labor Council is urging union members and supporters to vote YES on the MPS funding referendum.

## Follow the Union Online



@Fighting232



@USW232

[USWLocals.org/local-2-232](http://USWLocals.org/local-2-232)

## Don't Lose Your Cool, Call Your Steward

Asking for your steward at a time when the boss is attempting to interview you about a matter that could lead to discipline is similar to asking for a lawyer when the police are trying to interrogate you. The boss is legally required to wait until you've had a chance to speak with your steward before he can proceed with the questioning. This can give you a chance to cool down if the situation is at a boiling point.

Before Christmas break, a long-time Briggs & Stratton worker got into a confrontation with another employee and bargaining unit member. When the situation spiraled out of control a boss began to intervene and ask questions. Instead of asking for his union steward, the person yelled, "I'm done," took off their badge, and stormed out of the building.

Bad choice.

The union can't grieve your decision to quit. The company cannot fire you without just cause. If you're discharged, we can fight for you. But we're all adults here. There's no coming back from your rash decision to quit.

The worker in this situation was a freeloader, not a union member in good standing. And they left just in time to miss out on the union-negotiated paid Holiday.

If you're a dues paying member, it's all the more important that you remember to invoke your Weingarten Rights by asking for a union steward whenever the boss tries to interview you about something that could lead to discipline *in any way*.

## Union to Hold Town Hall in Preparation for 2020

Members are invited to a Town Hall Meeting to be held January 23rd at Four Points by Sheraton at 10:00 am & 6:30 pm.

If you are a member in good standing and wish to take part, be sure to RSVP to Denny Lauer at 920-722-7630 or [dlauer@usw.org](mailto:dlauer@usw.org).

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.

As we move into 2020, the International Union wants to hear about the issues that matter most to you. That's why they'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.

**Thursday, January 23rd**

**10:00 am & 6:30 pm**

**Four Points by Sheraton**

**5311 South Howell Ave, Milwaukee**

**RSVP to Denny Lauer at 920-722-7630**

**or [dlauer@usw.org](mailto:dlauer@usw.org)**

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