



MICHAEL H. BOLTON, DIRECTOR

UNITED STEELWORKERS



UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS

DISTRICT 2

NEWS

FEBRUARY 2020 • VOLUME 10, ISSUE 2, 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	LU#	Sector	Email Address
Ron Fancal	1296	Steel and Related	rfancal@yahoo.com
Don Carlson	58	Paper	doncarlson@ga.net
Robert Desmond	12762	Amalgamated	rdesmond@aol.com
Jesse Edwards	2-232	Automotive Related	Jesse_edwards2191@yahoo.com
Kent Holzing	12075	Chemical & Energy Related	kentholzing@gmail.com
Jackie Ankam	9898	Health Care	jackieankam.uswlocal899@yahoo.com
Michael Orvosh	12654	Public	m.orvosh@uswlocal12934.com
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Matthew Gibbons	3965	AI Large	usw3965@gmail.com
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is published by the

United Steelworkers District 2
AFL-CIO-CLC

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

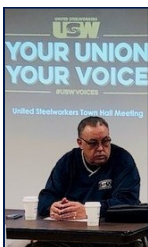
Articles and photos are welcome and should be sent:

Art Kroll, Editor, District 2 News
20600 Eureka Road, Suite 300, Taylor, MI 48180
d2@usw.org • 734-285-0367

MARCH 22, 2020, is the deadline for submissions for the next issue.

District 2 Completes "Your Union, Your Voice" Town Hall Meetings

A Message from Michael Bolton



District 2 recently wrapped up hosting a series of Town Hall meetings which were scheduled in each sub-district area in Wisconsin and Michigan that began on January 9th in Midland, Michigan, and concluded on February 18th in Negaunee, Michigan. The meetings were called, "Your Union, Your Voice" and were held to explain our International Union's mission and to discuss our core issues. But more than that, they were also held to hear from rank and file Steelworkers about the issues that are most important to them this election cycle.

The most important work we do as a union involves bargaining and enforcing good contracts. It's how we 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.

If the wrong people are making these laws, the government will allow corporate interests to drown out our voices and our power.

That's why it's so important that our union participates in this process. With all the money in politics and all the lobbyists working on behalf of the already rich, the only way we're able to make ourselves heard is by coming together and demanding our elected officials work for us. This is what we do year-round through our Rapid Response networks and our Washington, D.C., office.

But, it cannot stop there. We also must elect the right people. This is an important election year. In addition to a Presidential election, there are also 435 races for U.S. Representative and 35 races for U.S. Senator. Also, in 11 states, plus Puerto Rico, there is an election for governor. And, thousands of state and local offices will be on the ballot. You may be wondering how we determine who to endorse. Our process includes:

1. Evaluation of Candidates - where do they stand?

- The evaluation starts with determining which candidates' values best align with ours as a union. To do this, we look at their backgrounds. We consider past voting records. We also ask them directly through our federal candidate questionnaire.
- The questionnaire is sent to U.S. Senators, Representatives and President, regardless of party - Democrats, Republicans, and Independents.

- Before a decision is made to endorse or support a candidate for federal office, the candidate must fill out and return this questionnaire. This allows us to see where they stand on our core issues including trade, collective bargaining, health care, infrastructure, workplace health and safety, and retirement security.
- Copies of the questionnaire were sent to local union presidents and recording secretaries in late November of last year. The January special edition of our union's magazine, *USW@Work*, also contained those questions for you to review.

2. Hearing from You - Your Union, Your Voice.

While we have concluded our town hall meetings in District 2, others are still happening all over the country in other USW Districts.

For those of you unable to join us, our agenda included a 45-60 minute PowerPoint presentation that shared some of our union's work to impact government decisions.

After that, another hour was provided to listen to those in attendance about issues most important to them. Was it health care? Or, perhaps, workplace safety? Or, maybe it was finding more time to spend with your family? We listened to your opinions and took notes of what was discussed and raised at each meeting to share with the USW International Executive Board so they can take those thoughts into consideration as we move forward with both our legislative agenda and candidate evaluation process.

Paper copies of a national survey for our membership were also passed out at each meeting. All members and retirees who attended were invited to take the opportunity to participate in this survey.

However, if you were unable to attend the meeting or if you simply have not had the opportunity to do so yet, you can still take part in the survey. Everyone is encouraged to exercise their voice. On page 2, open your smart phone camera app viewfinder over the QR code to connect to the USW Survey. Or, visit: www.uswvoices.org to do the same.

Please take a few minutes to participate in this 2020 United Steelworkers' member survey to share your thoughts with us on where you stand on some of the biggest issues facing working Americans. Your voice is an essential part of everything we do as a union.

While our union is diverse and growing, with a wide range of concerns, we share common values when it comes to fair pay, safe workplaces, and vibrant communities, which is why these meetings were held - to hear from YOU!

It's Your Union, Your Voice.

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

Did you know?

EXECUTIVE PAY WATCH

This year marks the first where nearly all S&P 500 companies have disclosed the pay ratio between their CEO and median employee. This important disclosure did not come easy. Major corporations and industry groups lobbied long and hard to hide this valuable information from shareholders and the general public.

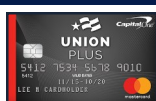
CEO-to-worker pay ratio data is important. A higher ratio could be a sign that companies suffer from a "winner-take-all" philosophy where executives reap the lion's share of compensation. A lower ratio could indicate which companies were dedicated to creating high-wage jobs and investing in their employees for the company's long-term health.

CEO PAY MATTERS

IN 2018, CEOs OF S&P 500 COMPANIES RECEIVED, ON AVERAGE, **\$14.5 MILLION** IN TOTAL COMPENSATION.

THE AVERAGE S&P 500 COMPANY CEO-TO-WORKER PAY RATIO WAS **287 TO 1**.

THE IMBALANCE IN OUR ECONOMY BETWEEN THE PAY OF CEOs AND WORKING PEOPLE CONTINUES TO BE A PROBLEM.



The Union Plus Credit Card program.

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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

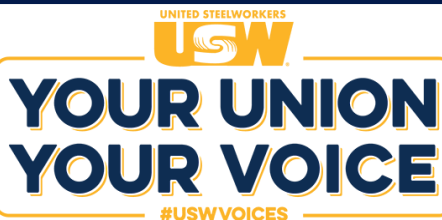
MICHAEL H. BOLTON, Director, 1244A Midway Road, Menasha, WI 54952
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HAVE YOU BEEN TO DISTRICT 2'S
PAGE ON FACEBOOK?

www.facebook.com/USWDistrict2

A Message from Director Bolton - continued from page 1



OUR CORE ISSUES

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

For more Town Hall meeting pictures, go to page 10



We want to hear about the issues that matter most to you. Please take a few minutes to participate in our 2020 United Steelworkers member survey so we can know where you stand on some of the biggest issues facing working Americans.

TAKE THE SURVEY AT:
USWVOICES.ORG



If you have an Android or Apple smartphone, open your camera app and position the viewfinder over the QR code. A link to the survey should automatically appear. (If not, you may need a scanning app.)

SAVE THE DATE • District 2 Conference

Red Lion Hotel Paper Valley

Appleton, Wisconsin

March 23 - 27, 2020

Event	Date(s)
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



March 8, 2020 – Daylight Saving Time Starts

When local standard time reaches 2:00 am on Sunday, March 8, clocks are turned **forward** one hour to 3:00 am on Sunday, March 8, local daylight time instead

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.

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



SOAR Eyes on Washington

Union Busting 101

As if to serve as a reminder to Steelworkers that it does matter which party holds the White House, President Trump has taken action that could result in 750,000 Defense Department workers losing their right to Union representation. A long-time target of right wingers, Defense Secretary, Mark

Esper, was authorized by Trump on January 29 to exclude Pentagon agencies and subdivisions from the federal law guaranteeing federal workers the right to organize. The move is part of a plan which was put together by Trump advisor, James Sherk, to eliminate Defense Department workers on the grounds of "national security". We will keep you posted as Secretary Esper acts on the plan.

And, as if they were confirming that it also matters who controls the U.S. House, Speaker Nancy Pelosi and her Democratic majority passed the Protect the Right to Organize Act earlier this month, giving the labor movement its biggest legislative victory in decades.

PRO Act Clears the House

Called the PRO Act, the bill levels the playing field for workers seeking to form a Union. The current law (passed in 1935) regulates who can join a Union, provides a process to vote on representation and a system for resolving disputes. After 85 years on the books, bosses and their Union busters have perfected using the law to deny workers Union membership. For example, it is illegal to fire workers for Union activities. However, employers have learned that firing a worker leads to delays in the election and kills any momentum a Union might have during the organizing drive. Since there are no real penalties for breaking the law, employers in 40% of Union drives fire workers. The Pro Act provides substantial fines and other sanctions against employers who knowingly violate the act.

The Act cleared the House with bi-partisan support and now moves to the U.S. Senate, where the Senate Republican majority is set to demonstrate that it is also important which party controls the upper chamber. They are expected to let the bill die without taking action on it!

Trump NLRB Sides with Union Busters

In a complaint filed in U.S. District Court, the National Labor Relations Board is siding with employers arguing that federal laws trump a state law that gave workers an option to decline attending mandatory meetings held by Union busters during organizing drives. The same law also holds that it is illegal for the boss to force religious and political views on workers. Current federal labor laws allow for the meetings and workers can be terminated for not attending. Oregon passed a statute in 2009 making the meetings optional and firings for non-attendance illegal.

Still No Action by Mitch and the Gang

One of the first acts of the newly elected Democratic-controlled House was to pass the "Butch Lewis Act", a bill which would reform multi-employer pensions and secure benefits for current and future retirees. It would create loan programs for plans to use to reach financial solvency since they are loans taxpayers would not be on the hook for reforming the system. However, the bill was sent to the Senate where it is languishing on Republican Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's desk. While millions of Americans worry about the possibility of reduced benefits, and some have already experienced cuts, McConnell can let the bill sit for the remainder of this legislative session. At that time, it will die and the President and Senate Republicans can escape voters' wrath for not taking a position for or against the legislation.

UNITED STEELWORKERS
SOAR
STEELWORKERS ORGANIZATION OF ACTIVE RETIREES

Our union is stronger when Steelworker retirees are involved as activists, advocates and volunteers, which is why we established the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR) in 1985. With the establishment of SOAR, our union solidified its focus on the unique issues impacting USW retirees and their spouses. Further, SOAR has been engaged in countless efforts to assure security for current and future generations of retirees regardless of whether they belong to a union or not.

"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

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

— 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

UNITED STEELWORKERS
USW News
UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020

CONTACT:
Chelsey Engel, cengel@usw.org
412-562-1178

USW Celebrates Black History Month

(PITTSBURGH) – *The United Steelworkers (USW) union Vice President Fred Redmond released the following statement in honor of Black History Month:*

“Black History Month offers us an opportunity to remember and celebrate the lives and legacies of the many Black people who have worked tirelessly for justice and equality. This becomes even more poignant this year, in the midst of a high-stakes presidential election.

“Many Black Americans were subjected to a host of indignities in order to vote, and many even lost their lives in this fight. We honor those who have come before us by continuing their work, and by ensuring that the gains they made are not lost. As we mark Black History Month, we must protect and participate in our democracy, exercising our right to vote so that their struggles were not in vain.

“This Black History Month, we honor those who fought for us by making our voices heard at the ballot box and ensuring everyone is able to cast their vote.”

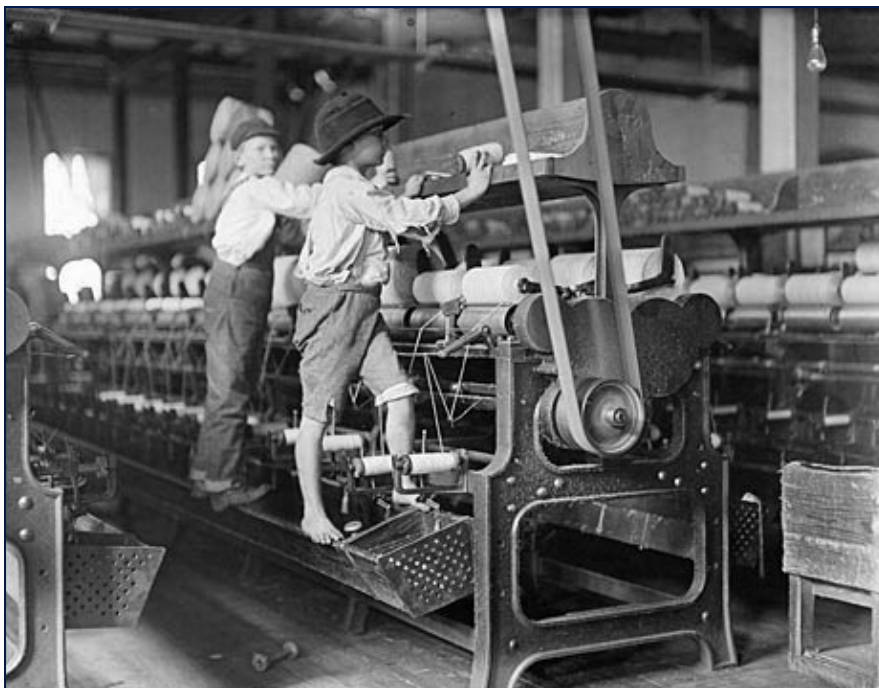
The USW represents 850,000 men and women employed in metals, mining, pulp and paper, rubber, chemicals, glass, auto supply and the energy-producing industries, along with a growing number of workers in health care, public sector, higher education, tech and service occupations.

###

This Day in Labor History • February 24, 1919 - Union Review

On February 24, 1919: Congress passes a federal Child Labor Tax law that imposes a 10 percent tax on companies that employ children, defined as anyone under the age of 16 working in a mine/quarry or under the age of 14 in a “mill, cannery, workshop, factory, or manufacturing establishment.”

The Supreme Court ruled it unconstitutional in 1922



"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

February 2020 • Black History Month Facts- *The History Channel.com*

Black History Month honors the contributions of African Americans to U.S. history. Among prominent figures are Madam C.J. Walker, who was the first U.S. woman to become a self-made millionaire, and George Washington Carver who derived nearly 300 products from the peanut. Read on for more black history facts.

Black History Month: The celebration of Black History Month began as "Negro History Week," which was created in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, a noted African American historian, scholar, educator and publisher. It became a month-long celebration in 1976. The month of February was chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.



- **NAACP:** On February 12, 2019, the NAACP marked its 110th anniversary. Spurred by growing racial violence in the early 20th century, and particularly by 1908 race riots in Springfield, Illinois, a group of African American leaders joined together to form a new permanent civil rights organization, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). February 12, 1909, was chosen because it was the centennial anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.
- **Heavyweight Champ:** Jack Johnson became the first African American man to hold the World Heavyweight Championship boxing title in 1908. He held onto the belt until 1915.
- **First Lawyer:** John Mercer Langston was the first black man to become a lawyer when he passed the bar in Ohio in 1854. When he was elected to the post of Town Clerk for Brownhelm, Ohio, in 1855 Langston became one of the first African Americans ever elected to public office in America. John Mercer Langston was also the great-uncle of Langston Hughes, famed poet of the Harlem Renaissance.
- **Famous Protestors:** While Rosa Parks is credited with helping to spark the Civil Rights movement when she refused to give up her public bus seat to a white man in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1955 - inspiring the Montgomery Bus Boycott - the lesser-known Claudette Colvin was arrested nine months prior for not giving up her bus seat to white passengers.
- **Supreme Court Justice:** Thurgood Marshall was the first African American ever appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court. He was appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson and served on the court from 1967 to 1991.
- **Eminent Scientist:** George Washington Carver developed 300 derivative products from peanuts among them cheese, milk, coffee, flour, ink, dyes, plastics, wood stains, soap, linoleum, medicinal oils and cosmetics.
- **First Senator:** Hiram Rhodes Revels was the first African American ever elected to the U.S. Senate. He represented the state of Mississippi from February 1870 to March 1871.
- **First Woman Representative:** Shirley Chisholm was the first African American woman elected to the House of Representatives. She was elected in 1968 and represented the state of New York. She broke ground again four years later in 1972 when she was the first major party African American candidate and the first female candidate for president of the United States.
- **Self-Made Millionaire:** Madam C.J. Walker was born on a cotton plantation in Louisiana and became wealthy after inventing a line of African American hair care products. She established Madame C.J. Walker Laboratories and was also known for her philanthropy.
- **Oscar Winner:** In 1940, Hattie McDaniel was the first African American performer to win an Academy Award - the film industry's highest honor - for her portrayal of a loyal slave governess in *Gone With the Wind*.
- **First Professional Black Baseball Player:** On April 5, 1947, Jackie Robinson became the first African American to play Major League Baseball when he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers. He led the league in stolen bases that season and was named Rookie of the Year.
- **First Black Billionaire:** Before Oprah Winfrey and Michael Jordan joined the billionaire's club, Robert Johnson became the first African American billionaire when he sold the cable station he founded, Black Entertainment Television (BET) in 2001.
- **First Black President:** In 2008, Barack Obama became the first black president of the United States.

USW District 2 Southern Wisconsin Women of Steel – Submitted by Cindy Odden

WOS in Southern Wisconsin Take the Plunge – Again!

The Southern Wisconsin WOS were "Freezin' for a Reason" on Saturday, February 15, 2020, when they gathered at the Milwaukee Zoo to take part in the 2020 Polar Plunge. Some supported, some donated, some helped pick through the ice to clear the water for the individuals taking the plunge. No matter what role was played, it's great to see everyone working together as a team for a great cause.

This event helps support the 18 different Olympic-type sports offered year-round, as well as free health care screens to ensure optimal health and performance of the Special Olympics Wisconsin athletes during competition. In total, more than 10,000 individuals with intellectual disabilities are given the opportunity to experience joy, pride and respect as a Special Olympics Wisconsin athlete.

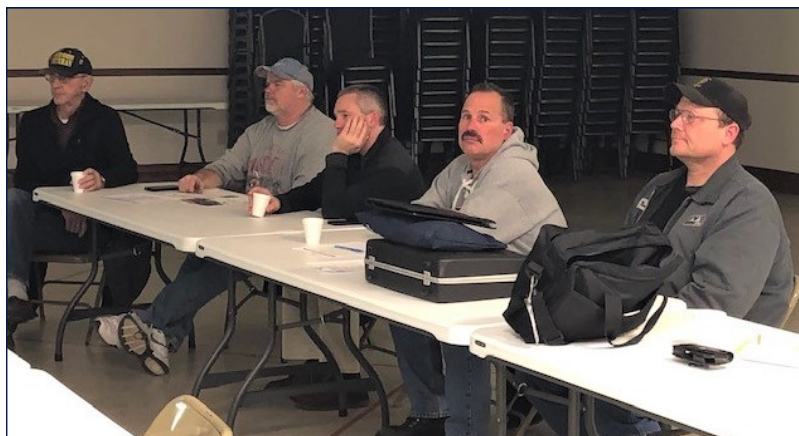
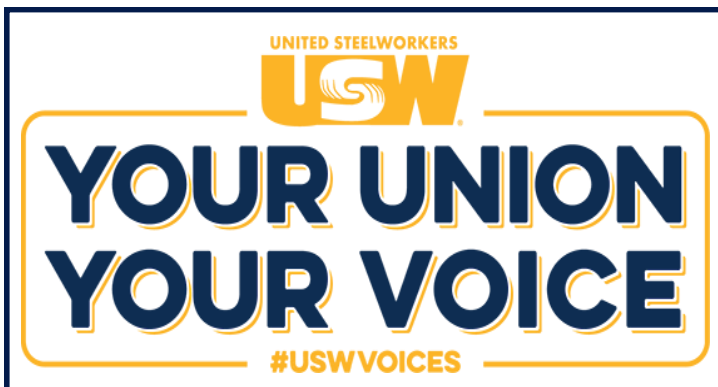


This year, the WOS raised \$625, with 100% of their donation benefitting the Special Olympics Wisconsin. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a great success!



"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

"Your Union, Your Voice" District 2 Town Hall Meetings • January - February, 2020



"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Thursday, Feb. 6, 2020

CONTACT:

R.J. Hufnagel, rhufnagel@usw.org
412-562-2450

USW Vice President Urges Investment in Infrastructure

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Feb. 6) – United Steelworkers (USW) International Vice President at Large Roxanne Brown testified today before the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee's Subcommittee on Trade, advocating for increased investments and upgrades in U.S. ports, highways, bridges, railways and air cargo facilities as a means to increase exports and grow the economy.

"Every delay from inadequate infrastructure undermines worker productivity and allows for our global competitors to reap the benefit," Brown told the committee. "We strongly urge Congress to increase the country's role in the transportation infrastructure necessary to get our ships and goods across the globe."

The hearing, titled "Trade Infrastructure for Global Competitiveness," came one week after House Democrats unveiled their "Moving Forward Framework," a 5-year plan to invest \$760 billion in the nation's infrastructure.

That plan, Brown said, could spur 10 million jobs, reduce greenhouse gasses and jump-start the nation's economy, particularly in the manufacturing sector.

"American manufacturing should be the first priority in an effort to improve export infrastructure facilitation," Brown said. "Our nation needs massive public investment in rebuilding our crumbling and overburdened roads, bridges, rail lines, ports and more."

Investments in transportation improvements not only would lead to an increase in exports, but also would create jobs in manufacturing for workers who make the steel, concrete and other materials needed for the upgrades, as well as the ships and other vehicles needed to carry cargo to its destination.

"If we are going to share our energy resources with the world," Brown said, "our workers need to share in the benefits by providing the materials needed for transport of the vital commodities."

To read Brown's full testimony to the House subcommittee, visit <http://usw.to/35m>.

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.

A Special Message from the Michigan AFL-CIO - Submitted by Derek Dobies, Chief of Staff, MI AFL-CIO



MICHIGAN AFL-CIO

Michigan Brothers and Sisters,

There are just two weeks until Michigan's presidential primary.

Thanks to the new voting rules passed in 2018, registering to vote is easier than ever. You can check your registration status, request an absentee ballot and check its status, or find out how to contact

your local clerk, at: Michigan.gov/vote.

If you're sure you're registered, will you pledge to vote today?

The 2020 election is the biggest of our lifetimes. Make no mistake: workers' rights are on the ballot this year. It's never been more important that those of us in labor make sure our voices are heard at the voting booth.

Join us in committing to vote right now.

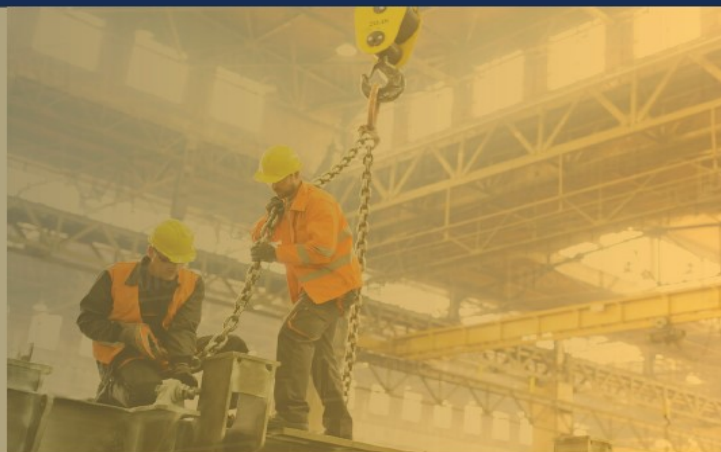
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