



MICHAEL H. BOLTON, DIRECTOR

UNITED STEELWORKERS



UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS
DISTRICT 2

NEWS

MARCH 2020 • VOLUME 10, ISSUE 3, PAGE 1

Stay Safe, Stay Healthy!

DISTRICT 2 CONTACT INFORMATION

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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 Pascual	1299	Steel and Related	rtascual@yahoo.com
Don Carlson	59	Paper	dcarlson@zianet
Robert Desmond	12702	Amalgamated	rdesmond@aol.com
Jesse Edwards	2-232	Automotive Related	Jesse_edwards1919@yahoo.com
Kent Holting	12075	Chemical & Energy Related	kentholting@gmail.com
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is published by the

United Steelworkers District 2
AFL-CIO-CLC

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Sonja Pachery, Stacy Benson, Tim Reiter, USW New Media,
CDC, The History Channel.com

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should be sent:

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APRIL 20, 2020, is the deadline for
submissions for the next issue.

A Message from Michael Bolton



sight of three very important facts.

1. The current coronavirus pandemic is the most critical global medical crisis since the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918 when over 675,000 Americans lost their lives.
2. There is no vaccine to prevent the disease; and, once infected, there is no cure for it. The best the medical community can do is treat the symptoms and pray the patient has the strength to overcome the infection.
3. Whatever is done to stop the spread better be good because there will be no second chance to get it right. Unfortunately, this is reality and it's easy to see why government leaders would elect to err on the side of caution.

As of March 30, Michigan and Wisconsin coronavirus numbers are growing. There were 1,288 confirmed cases and 23 deaths in Wisconsin and 6,498 cases with 184 deaths in Michigan. Some may question what the big deal is when comparing these numbers to a flu outbreak. You have to take into consideration that this disease is far worse than the flu because it attacks the lungs and there is no cure or vaccine for it, which is why our states have been doing everything in their power to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Also, as of the same date, both Michigan and Wisconsin are in "shelter in place" lockdown, meaning only essential businesses are operating as residents are being told to stay home. Of course, lockdowns are going to result in substantial layoffs. Be assured that our Steelworker lobbying staff is on Capitol Hill urging lawmakers to pass a stimulus program that meets the needs of working families. You are probably aware; the Democrats have twice prevented the passage of a plan favored by the Trump Administration and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. Unfortunately, the bill heavily favored big business while offering working class Americans very little. For example:

- Workers would receive a one-month extension of unemployment benefits and two \$1,200 checks per adult and \$500 per child.

While the hardship is spreading, the service industry has been hit the hardest so far. Workers in restaurants, barbershops, salons and the hotel industry are losing jobs at a hefty rate. They are eligible to receive a maximum of \$370 per week for 26 weeks in Wisconsin and \$362 for 20 weeks in Michigan - roughly the same amount a minimum wage worker would earn during a 40-hour work week. It is not enough to make a house payment, pay monthly bills and feed a family.

Steelworkers and Congressional Democrats are fighting to ensure that whatever package is passed, the needs of workers will be taken care of.

As you know, there is no vaccine or cure for COVID-19. The only way to stop it, or at least slow it, is limit person-to-person contact, which is what Wisconsin and Michigan officials are attempting to do with their lockdown orders. To some it may seem like an overreach, but it's one of the few options we have right now.

Another goal of the stay at home orders is to slow the curve of the pandemic to preserve medical resources. To understand this importance, look at the situation in Italy. Remember, Italy is not a third-world nation. The country has more doctors and hospitals per capita than the United States; yet, it has over 101,739 confirmed COVID-19 cases that have led to 11,591 deaths as of March 30. The first case was reported during the last week of January. From that time until March 7, the virus reached 5,832 confirmed cases. From March 8 through today that number has grown by over 58,000 cases or 3,632 new cases per day, putting one hell of a drain on hospital beds, equipment and personnel; and is what our civic leaders are trying desperately to avoid.

Maybe they should look at what South Korea has done to shut down the COVID-19 threat. Ironically, the U.S. and South Korea reported their first confirmed cases of the coronavirus on January 20. However, that is also where the similarities end.

Having experienced a MERS (Mideastern Respiratory Syndrome) outbreak in 2015, the South Korean government took note of their successful steps by reviewing what they did to end that epidemic. The major component in that effort was testing. So, when the COVID-19 virus started to impact Chinese citizens in Wuhan, the South Korean Center for Disease Control and Prevention (SKCDCP) began developing a test for the coronavirus. After a 35-year old woman, who had visited Wuhan, began to show symptoms, she was immediately tested; and the positive test resulted with the rest of the South Korean program to kick in.

First, was isolation of the patient. Next, using cell phone technology, the government began tracing the patient's whereabouts. Using that information,

— Continued on Page 2 —

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

Did you know?

Fortune 500 corporations are avoiding up to \$767 billion in U.S. federal income taxes by holding \$2.6 trillion of "permanently reinvested" profits offshore.



In 2018, U.S. Corporations bought back a record \$1 trillion shares of their own stock, which can deprive companies of needed capital expenditures, research and development, and investment in their own employees.

Tell the SEC to end executive pay abuse of stock buybacks.



YOUR UNION YOUR VOICE

#USWVOICES

OUR CORE ISSUES

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



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NEWS

United Steelworkers District 2
AFL-CIO-CLC

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(920) 722-7630



**HAVE YOU BEEN TO DISTRICT 2'S
PAGE ON FACEBOOK?**
www.facebook.com/USWDistrict2

A Message from Director Bolton - continued from page 1

researchers were able to identify people she had contact with. Those individuals were also tested and placed into isolation.

Thankfully, using this system, the South Korean government was able to identify the epicenter of the pandemic was the Shincheonji Church of Jesus, a mega church where as many as 500 members at a time sit on the floor shoulder to shoulder. All churchgoers were tested and quarantined. As a result, the number of new cases has gone down substantially. The government of South Korea is quick to caution that the pandemic could experience resurgence, but for now the numbers are moving in the right direction.

It should be noted at the beginning, the SKCDCP advised citizens to engage in social distancing, wash hands regularly, wear medical masks, avoid crowds and meetings, work remotely, and join in online services instead of going to church.

Remarkably, through all of this, no South Korean medical personnel became infected by the coronavirus.

As for District 2, we are still up and running. We cancelled the 2020 District 2 Conference and the Women of Steel Leadership Development Levels 1 and 2 Courses out of an abundance of caution for our members. Even though our offices have been closed to reduce traffic and the risk of secretarial staff contracting the disease, they are still doing the work of our Union, as is our Servicing Staff. Our Staff is available to our Local Unions to provide the same representation as we did before this crisis.

Finally, as leaders of our Union, you are probably concerned about what you can do to help your members avoid being exposed. The USW International Union has created webpages for your use during this pandemic. Simply go to usw.org and you will be taken to a site that features a graphic of the virus and the words, "For the latest news and resources on COVID-19, click here", or simply click on this link <https://www.usw.org/members/coronavirus-resources>. You will have access to a line-up of information on the virus and even tips for workers facing job loss.

We are currently traveling in uncharted waters. No one knows when this crisis will pass or what the end will look like. But one thing is for sure - we are all in this together and we all have a role to play in its successful conclusion. We have been in tough situations before and we came out stronger. I am confident that working together, we will do the same when this crisis is over.

Stay Safe, Stay Healthy!

Editor's Note: Please go to page 5 of this D2 Newsletter for some highlights of the Stimulus Package that passed through the Senate and House and was signed by the President. We also expect more stimulus packages to come.

Important District 2 Information

Important Notice:

We apologize for any inconvenience, but the USW District 2 offices are closed. However, the health and safety of our members and staff is our number one priority.

We are committed to doing our part to prevent the further spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) while still representing our members. If you need assistance, you can still call each office; or, call your Staff Representative.

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.



cdc.gov/COVID19

"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 • Nekeosa, 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 **CANCELLED & POSTPONED until April 2022**
District 2 Council Conference
Red Lion Hotel Paper Valley • 333 West College Avenue, Appleton, WI

MAY

- 3-8 **CANCELLED & POSTPONED until May 2021**
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

Know How it Spreads



- There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).
- The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.
- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.
 - Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
 - Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

Content source: [National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases \(NCIRD\), Division of Viral Diseases](#)

The 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.

SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019

Patients with COVID-19 have experienced mild to severe respiratory illness.

Symptoms* can include

FEVER



COUGH



*Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.

Seek medical advice if you develop symptoms, and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

SHORTNESS OF BREATH



cdc.gov/COVID19-symptoms

CS 315252-A March 20, 2020, 12:51PM

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

QUICK LOOK AT THE STIMULUS BILL

INCOME ASSISTANCE

- \$1,200 one-time payment per adult (up to \$75,000 in annual income for individuals and \$150,000 for joint filers) and \$500 per child.
 - Rebate amount reduced by \$5 for each \$100 a taxpayer's income exceeds the income threshold with complete phaseout at \$99,000 for individuals and \$198,000 for joint filers.
 - Includes those with no income.
- \$900 million for Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (UI)

- \$600/week in addition to other UI benefits (totaling 100% wage replacement) for 4 months.
- Temporary UI program for part-time, self-employed, gig economy, and other workers excluded from regular UI through December 31, 2020.
- 13 additional weeks of unemployment benefits through December 31, 2020.
- Provides federal funding for states to waive waiting weeks through December 31, 2020.
- Full federal funding for existing Short-Term Compensation (STC) programs, 50% federal funding for states beginning STC programs, and \$100million in grants to states through December 31, 2020.
- \$360 million for worker training and support and implementation costs at Department of Labor.

PAID SICK DAYS AND FAMILY LEAVE

- Retains exclusion of employers with more than 500 employees from emergency paid sick and paid family and medical leave programs.
- Excludes parents who have to care for adult children with disabilities.
- Allows exemption of executive branch employees from paid leave protections.
- Allows employers and self-employed individuals to receive an advance tax credit for paid leave expenses.

ACCESS TO TESTING AND TREATMENT

- Requires private insurers and Medicare to cover coronavirus treatment and prevention.
- Requires diagnostic test providers to make the price for the coronavirus test publicly available on the internet.
- Requires Medicare to allow fills and refills of prescription drugs for up to a 3-month supply during the emergency.
- \$15.85 billion for health care access for veterans.

FINANCIAL PROTECTION

- Suspends negative consumer credit reporting until 120 days after pandemic in the case of forbearance of payment modification.

WHAT'S MISSING

- No OSHA emergency standard
- No fix for the 500+ sized employers on paid leave
- Nothing on pensions
- Other unions were pushing for help for postal workers and immigrants. Neither of these made it in

DISTRICT 2 SPECIFIC INFORMATION

STATE OF WISCONSIN:

- [Unemployment COVID-19 Public Information](#): Frequently asked questions about the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Wisconsin Unemployment Benefits.
- [Department of Workforce Development Information](#): For the Public including Unemployment and Employment and Training.
- [Wisconsin Unemployment Insurance General](#): Information about the Unemployment Insurance program.

STATE OF MICHIGAN:

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Information](#): Information for residents/communities, health care professionals, childcare and school administrators, employers and workers.
- [General information](#): Information about the Unemployment Insurance program.
- [Workers Compensation Program](#): General information about the workers compensation program.

Local 5965's Annual Backpack and Food Drive – Submitted by Stacey Benson

USW Local 5965 of Hastings, Michigan, held their annual Backpack Lunch Program food drive. Donations were taken throughout the month of February. They were able to collect four big boxes full of food, which goes toward sack lunches kids get to take home twice a week who might not otherwise have food at home.

This program is for children in kindergarten thru 8th grade in the Hastings Area Schools. The local also raised and donated \$221 to give to the school program, which is completely funded through donations.

As schools throughout Michigan are closing for three weeks, the donations came just in time to help keep kids fed while the school is in recess due to the coronavirus.



Left to Right: Middle School Principal Mrs. Stevens, Stacey Benson and Kent King

Local 12585's Women of Steel's Bake Sale Raises \$1,100 – Submitted by Sonja Pachesny

Local 12585's Women of Steel Committee in Manistee held a bake sale at work on Valentine's Day and raised \$1,100!

The money was split to buy 53 pairs of gloves and 34 packages of socks for a local elementary school (K-2). The rest was donated to a local women's shelter.

Pictured Left to Right: Kayla Linke, Sonja Pachesny and Donna Labbe



Former USWA District 29 (2) Executive Secretary Diana Binder



Diana J. Binder, 77, of Fremont, Ohio, passed away on Thursday, March 26, 2020, at Countryside Manor. She was born on September 11, 1942, in Fremont, the daughter of Joseph Binder and Hazel (Hoffman) Binder. Diana was a 1961 graduate of St. Joseph High School.

Diana worked in District 29 (2) of the United Steelworkers as former Director Harry Lester's Executive Secretary. She retired in January 2006. She was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, the Rosary Altar Society and Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament. Diana also volunteered as a funeral luncheon coordinator for many years at the church. She enjoyed helping others no matter what.

She is survived by her sister, Marilyn Miller, Fremont, Ohio; many nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; siblings, Joseph Binder, Jr., Robert Binder, Rita Sloan, William and Richard Binder, Norma Price, Mary Binder, Delores Orndorff, Janet Freeze, Gerald and Raymond Binder, Audrey Frederick, Judith Angelone, Barbara Drown and Kenneth Binder.

Due to the current pandemic of COVID 19, the family has chosen to delay service until public gathering is considered safe again. Please continue to check the Wonderly Horvath Hanes Funeral Home's obituary page for updates.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 550 Smith Rd, Fremont, OH 43420 - or, Heartland Hospice, 907 W. State St, Fremont, OH 43420



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Thursday, March 26, 2020

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

USW Urges Congress to Build on Efforts to Aid American Workers

(Pittsburgh) – The United Steelworkers (USW) today applauded the bipartisan effort to pass a coronavirus stimulus package through the U.S. Senate and called on members of both congressional chambers to continue this effort to ensure that no workers are left behind in the face of the growing pandemic and its economic fallout.

The USW praised the bill for protecting jobs in vulnerable industries and providing expanded unemployment assistance, aid to small businesses, rebates to taxpayers, and funding for the U.S. health care system to treat and test patients and research vaccines, among other relief measures.

“The stimulus measure that the Senate passed yesterday is a significant improvement over the original Republican proposal, which would have provided a blank check for handouts to corporations with too little oversight, while not doing enough to help struggling workers and families,” said USW International President Thomas M. Conway. “In particular, the expansion of unemployment payments is essential in this time of uncertainty, as jobless claims surge to historic levels. American workers must not be left behind.”

The USW said Congress must now demand new workplace safety standards and additional funding for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, as well as increased production of personal protective equipment to make sure workers who are still on the job, especially health care workers and other first responders, can stay healthy.

In addition, the union urged lawmakers to guarantee that all Americans receive health care regardless of their employment status and to shore up pension funds to ensure retirement security.

“This must be one of many measures to protect workers. Too many Americans are still worried - about their health, the health of their families, about losing their jobs, or about how they are going to pay their bills in the coming weeks and months. These are the people Congress must always put first, not corporate executives and Wall Street millionaires,” Conway said.

The USW also said Congress must do more to ensure that paid sick and family leave is available to all workers who need it, and must remain vigilant so that companies don’t use the crisis as an excuse to exploit workers.

“Congress must continue to use its oversight to make sure companies don’t use this bailout as a means to enhance their bottom lines or line CEOs’ pockets. This money should be used to preserve and enhance the future for workers,” Conway said. “In addition, no American should wonder how they are going to care for themselves or their families during this pandemic. Barriers for patients must be removed, and costs must be kept to a minimum.”

The USW called on the House to quickly pass the bill and the president to sign it. The union also said Congress may need to provide additional stimulus payments in the future.

“This is going to be an ongoing crisis, and its economic effects will be long and far-reaching,” Conway said. “Congress will need to continue to make certain that the long-term effects of this pandemic don’t leave American workers and families to continue to struggle.”

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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Local 2-232 holds Milwaukee Area Food Drive - Submitted by Tim Reiter

Local 2-232 held a food drive for the Milwaukee Area Hunger Task Force they named the "500 lb. Challenge". The unit, consisting of 250 members, gave themselves four weeks to hit their goal. It was a large task for them, but the membership was determined; and, with a last day push, they were able to just surpass their goal collecting 503 pounds of food.

The Local wasn't finished there though. The next morning, eight members and their families delivered the food and volunteered their morning doing a food sort. Working together with other volunteers, they were able to sort over 18,000 pounds of healthy food to be distributed to the Milwaukee County Area. Thank you to everyone who donated food or their time to help support the Hunger Task Force.



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

Thank you for all of your work around the recent PRO Act action; and for the future work you be doing as we continue to demand that workers come first and we push the PRO Act (S. 1306), the Butch Lewis Act (S. 2254), and the Workplace Violence Protection for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act (S. 851) in the Senate. You can let your Senators know these are Steelworker priorities by calling 877-607-0785 and telling them it is time for the Senate to bring them up for a vote. After the first call, hang up and dial the number again to reach your other Senator.

USW District 2 Locals continue to work to build/strengthen the Rapid Response program to ensure that labor has a strong voice around legislation and government decisions that affect us at work, in retirement and at the bargaining table.

Pictured are members from USW Local 332 in Battle Creek, Michigan, who recently took part in a Rapid Response training designed to improve their efforts in the Rapid Response program. Local Union President, Adam Newman, welcomed this



training for his local and wanted a strong delegation present to ensure they could be as effective as possible in educating and mobilizing members around legislation and government decisions impacting workers and the middle class. After the half day training, Rapid Response Coordinator, Trina Nichols said, "The Rapid Response training provided a great opportunity to bring all three shifts together to work as a team to build a communication network at our local."

For more information, please contact USW District 2 Coordinator Sue Browne at sbrowne@usw.org.

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

LBJ Calls For Equal Voting Rights • March 15, 1965 - *The History Channel.com*



On March 15, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson addresses a joint session of Congress to urge the passage of legislation guaranteeing voting rights for all.

Using the phrase "we shall overcome," borrowed from African American leaders struggling for equal rights, Johnson declares that "every American citizen must have an equal right to vote." Johnson reminds the nation that the Fifteenth Amendment, which was passed after the Civil War, gave all citizens the right to vote regardless of race or color. But states had defied the Constitution and erected barriers. Discrimination had taken the form of literacy,

knowledge or character tests administered solely to African-Americans to keep them from registering to vote.

"Their cause must be our cause too," Johnson said. "Because it is not just Negroes, but really it is all of us, who must overcome the crippling legacy of bigotry and injustice. And we shall overcome."

The speech was delivered eight days after racial violence erupted in Selma, Alabama. Civil rights leader Rev. Martin Luther King and over 500 supporters were attacked while planning a march from Selma to Montgomery to register African Americans to vote. The police violence that erupted resulted in the death of a King supporter, a white Unitarian Minister from Boston named James J. Reeb. Television news coverage of the event galvanized voting rights supporters in Congress.

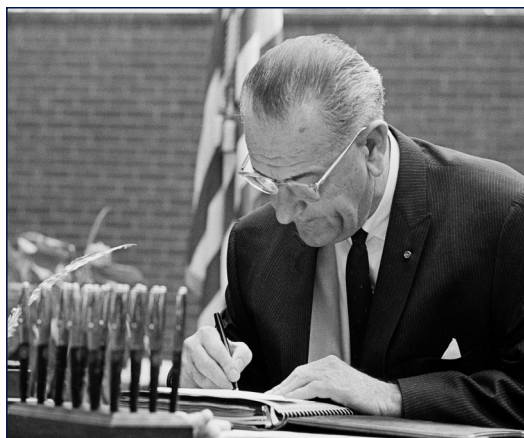
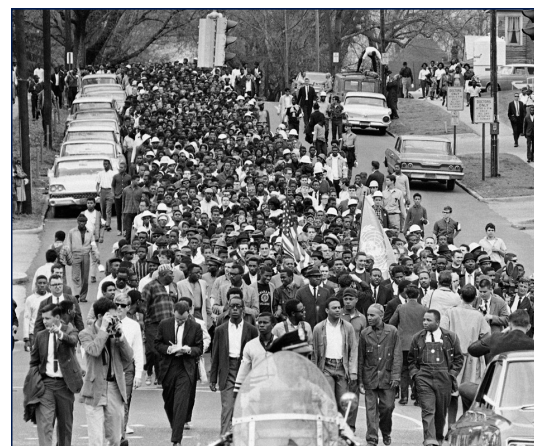
A second attempt to march to Montgomery was also blocked by police. It



took Federal intervention with the "federalizing" of the Alabama national guard and the addition of over 2,000 other guards to allow the march to begin.

The march to Montgomery finally began March 21 with over 3,000 participants under the glare of worldwide news publicity.

The violence, however, continued. Just after the march was successfully completed on March 25, four Klansmen shot and killed Detroit homemaker Viola Liuzzo as she drove marchers back to Selma.



On August 6, 1965, Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act, which made it illegal to impose restrictions on federal, state and local elections that were designed to deny the vote to blacks.

While state and local enforcement of the act was initially weak, mainly in the South, the Voting Rights Act gave African-American voters the legal means to challenge voting restrictions and vastly improved voter turnout. In Mississippi alone, voter turnout among blacks increased from 6 percent in 1964 to 59 percent in 1969.

In 1970, President Richard Nixon extended the provisions of the Voting Rights Act and lowered the eligible voting age for all voters to 18.

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Thursday, March 5, 2020

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

USW's Conway Calls on Congress to Support Steel Industry, Workers

(Washington, D.C.) – United Steelworkers (USW) International President Thomas M. Conway joined top executives from U.S. steelmakers on Thursday in testifying before the Congressional Steel Caucus to seek continued support from lawmakers for the American steel industry and its workers.

The first step is to ensure that American workers are competing on a fair playing field with overseas competitors, Conway said. While the Section 232 tariffs that took effect in March 2018 aided the industry in the short term, more consistent support for fair trade from Washington is necessary to ensure the industry remains on a long-term, sustainable course, Conway said.

"We need to work with our allies to secure multi-lateral disciplines to reduce steel overcapacity and sanction bad actors," he said. "Steel remains vital to our economy and our national security."

Besides fair trade, another key to maintaining a vibrant domestic steel industry, Conway said, is ensuring consistent, strong demand for its products. Congress can spur that demand by making much-needed investments in the nation's infrastructure and transportation systems and ensuring that such projects come with Buy America provisions.

"It is unfortunate that for all the rhetoric about the need to improve domestic infrastructure there has been a continued stumbling off the blocks by Congress and the administration," he said.

The \$760 billion Moving Forward Framework unveiled last month by House Democrats could create 10 million jobs, help mitigate climate change and ensure that American manufacturers have a reliable network for use in shipping their products around the world.

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

Conway also cautioned lawmakers on the increase in automation in the industry, which he said allows companies to produce more steel with fewer workers, putting jobs at risk.

"These workers cannot be cast aside like equipment," Conway told the Congressional panel. "Lawmakers must work with labor to ensure a strong and vital manufacturing workforce for our current and future economies."

Joining Conway in testifying Thursday were industry executives John Brett of ArcelorMittal USA, Rich Fruehauf of U.S. Steel, Lourenco Goncalves of Cleveland-Cliffs Inc., Leon Topalian of Nucor, Jim Charmley of Bull Moose Tube, Barbara R. Smith of Commercial Metals Co., and David Zalesne of Owen Steel Co.

For the full text of Conway's remarks, visit:
www.usw.org/news/media-center/releases/2020/20-03-05-Testimony-of-Thomas-Conway.pdf

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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