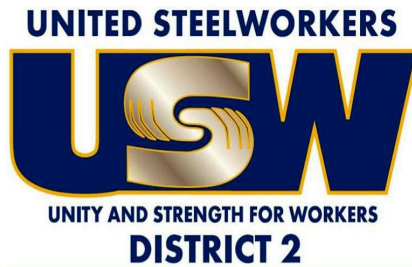




MICHAEL H. BOLTON, DIRECTOR



NEWS

APRIL 2021 • VOLUME 11, ISSUE 4 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 Fancsal	1299	Steel and Related	rfancsal@yahoo.com
Don Carlson	59	Paper	dcarlson@za.net
Robert Desmond	12182	Amalgamated	rdesmond@aol.com
Jesse Edwards	2-232	Automotive Related	Jesse_edwards21919@yahoo.com
Kent Holzing	12975	Chemical & Energy Related	kentholzing@gmail.com
Jackie Anklam	9899	Health Care	jackieanklam.uswlocal899@yahoo.com
Michael Orvosk	12934	Public	m.orvosk@uswlocal12934.com
Eric Henricka	1227	AI Large	eric.henricka@alliances.com
Matthew Gibbons	3965	AI Large	usw3965@gmail.com
Jim Whit	2-145	Allied Industrial	whitjim@yahoo.com



United Steelworkers District 2
AFL-CIO-CLC

MICHAEL H. BOLTON, Director
1244A Midway Rd., Menasha, WI 54952
(920) 722-7630

Contributors to this issue include:
Lori Gutskunst; Tammy Duncan; Jay McMurrain;
Thomas Conway, USW International President;
USW New Media; AFL-CIO; HISTORY.com;
Aimee Picchi, MONEYWATCH

Articles and photos are welcome
and should be sent:

Jason Wilcox & Art Kroll, Co-Editors, *District 2 News*
1244A Midway Rd., Menasha, WI 54952
d2@usw.org • (920) 722-7630

MAY 21, 2021, is the deadline for
submissions for the next issue.

Time to Modernize American Infrastructure

A Message from Michael Bolton



Late last year, Forbes Magazine and Moody's Analytics were predicting it would take the U.S. four years to recover from the 22 million jobs lost during the covid-19 pandemic. Since then, over 100 million Americans have been vaccinated and the virus has loosened its death grip on the economy. As a result, unemployment is ticking downward, with the country gaining 12 million jobs back. This is great news for recalled workers, but not if you are among the 10 million still waiting for your job to come back. You need work today, which is why the Biden Administration fought hard to pass the latest round of covid-19 relief and why they are promising to fight as equally hard to pass a nearly \$3 trillion infrastructure bill to rebuild America's crumbling roads and bridges and a lot more. To help Biden pass his agenda in Congress, the Steelworkers have launched a "We Supply America" campaign aiming to persuade members of Congress to support the legislation.

I am excited about the infrastructure proposal and our Steelworkers' action. If you look around the country, you can see the affect covid-19 has had on our industries. Many Americans recognize restaurants, travel, and hospitality have taken a huge hit from the pandemic, but they aren't aware of how much the disease has impacted us. Since the beginning of the pandemic, demand for many of our core products has dried up resulting in the temporary and permanent loss of thousands of good paying Steelworker jobs. Industries severely impacted by the pandemic are paper, steel, and aluminum.

In addition to lost jobs, the pandemic has caused downward pressure on wages. After all, it is difficult to ask the boss for a raise when a big chunk of the population does not know where their next meal is coming from. According to the Economic Policy Institute (EPI), from 2009 through 2019, wages in the U.S. grew an anemic 2.8% annually; and that rate was holding steady through the first quarter of 2020. However, by the fourth quarter of last year, the rate jumped to 4.4%. Why? Did the pandemic cause the boss to become more generous? Absolutely not! Ironically, the increase was the result of the loss of millions of low-paying jobs. The first jobs lost during the pandemic were to low-paying jobs in restaurants and the service sectors. Naturally, with low-wage earners out of the equation, the average went up.

Another factor in wage stagnation was the number of workers without jobs. At the height of

the pandemic, 14.8% of us were without work - 22 million jobs were lost in just a matter of a few weeks as the country closed to prevent the spread of covid-19. With that many Americans out of work, it quickly became an employer's job market which allowed the boss to determine wages and benefit levels. Right now, the unemployment rate has dropped 6%, which is a stellar decrease, but still too high to create a worker's job market. Like the job situation, wages need a bump from increased government investment. The Biden Infrastructure plan gives the economy the jolt it needs to put more money in our pockets.

Before we take a look at what the Biden plan does, I would like to discuss Republican opposition to the legislation. Naturally, the right is saying the plan is too expensive and must be scaled back, fitting a pattern the GOP has been following since Reagan where they have no issue spending during a Republican presidency, but cry austerity when a Democrat is in office. Unfortunately, their rhetoric is unfounded. To boost the economy, create jobs and distribute earnings fairly, targeted government spending is just what the economy is asking for. Additionally, the spending is a shot in the arm for the GDP. As the GDP grows, the federal debt is paid off. That is how you address the deficit - creating more revenue, not cutting vital safety nets. According to the Hill, a right leaning publication dedicated to legislation and legislators, an investment of \$737 billion over the next ten years would put the country on the road to infrastructure revival. It also reported each additional one dollar investment will lead to \$3.70 in economic growth over the next 20 years. This is how you pay off the debt.

Republicans at this time are not prepared to give the country and its workers a chance to compete in the world market. Our roads, ports, railway, airports and bridges are adversely impacting our employers' ability to receive the parts and materials they need to build their products. By the same measure, they affect our ability to get the final product to the market.

It is not just transportation affecting our ability to compete. Our government is not ensuring employers and employees are getting resources they need to succeed, including quality education, the availability of technology to everyone, appropriate training for jobs of the future, and research and development policies that support quality products the world wants and needs. As you will see, the Biden plan does all of this; and it is supported by industries and economists across the country.

One more point I would like to make before we start talking about Biden's plan. The International Monetary Fund (IMF), a sort of bank for countries facing fiscal problems, agrees it is time for the U.S.

— continued on page 2 —

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

Did you know?

Wall Street Bonuses Surging

1,217%

since 1985, or about 10 times
the pace for minimum wage
workers during the
same stretch.

For more on this, go to page 7.

America's Infrastructure Scores a

C-

Every four years, the American Society of Civil Engineers' Report Card for America's Infrastructure depicts the condition and performance of American infrastructure in the familiar form of a school report card - assigning letter grades based on the physical condition and needed investments for improvement.



The Union Plus Credit Card program.

With 3 card choices - designed to meet the needs of union members. All with competitive rates, U.S. based customer service and more. Plus, exclusive hardship grants for eligible cardholders*.

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
(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

to start rebuilding its infrastructure and is recommending our country invest big. We cannot do this by cutting government services.

What is the money going to be spent on? According to a White House Fact Sheet on the American Jobs Act, the plan begins by modernizing and repairing 20,000 miles of roads, highways and main streets; 10 major bridges and 10,000 smaller bridges. In mass transportation, it will provide thousands of environmental friendly city buses and railroad cars. It will also modernize bus stations, seaports and airports while expanding transit and railroads to new communities.

It will also increase rural America's access to broadband and internet services that will be affordable and will meet minimum standards for speed and quality, meaning it will reach the 35% of rural Americans who lack access to quality broadband.

The plan calls for revitalizing industry by investing to secure supply chains, prioritizing money for Research & Development, providing workers with training for the jobs of the future and funding primary and secondary education to prepare children to succeed in college and in the workforce.

It ensures investment dollars will be used to buy products and services produced in the United States by strengthening existing "Buy American" requirements. It closes loopholes companies use to seek waivers of Buy American provisions and revamps U.S. content laws to require companies to use a higher percentage of U.S. parts in order to be labeled, "Made in America".

It also will address wage disparity in two ways. First, it will modernize U.S. labor laws through passage of the Protect the Right to Organize (PRO) Act. Reforming the National Labor Relations Act will level the playing field for workers seeking to form a Union. Greater Union membership means more Americans will be earning a living wage with good benefits. Not to mention, as more workers will be needed in construction and its supplier industries, the demand for workers will grow, meaning a worker's job market, and putting workers in a good position to ask for more of the profits they help to generate.

The Steelworkers have launched part two of the We Supply America infrastructure investment campaign. We are expecting a significant debate over a massive Biden plan. If done right, there is potential for securing and growing hundreds of thousands of USW jobs. In the first phase, we engaged USW members to complete a survey to help us understand the issues and to learn how our union can supply America's infrastructure needs. To take the survey, please visit usw.to/supply.

The second phase of the action is seeking members to tell their stories regarding how a massive investment in modernizing our American infrastructure could positively affect our jobs. For example, a long-term investment in road and bridge repair would create a tremendous demand for various types of steel products, coupled with strong Buy American language, the steel industry will receive the boost it has needed for years. Because the Biden plan has such potential of reviving our core industries including steel and aluminum, paper and packaging, oil and chemical, healthcare and education, construction vehicle manufacturing, and rubber tire production, we are committed to making WSA a huge success. I urge all District 2 Local Unions to get involved in the next phase of our program. I think it is an exciting endeavor to get our local unions and the management of the units they represent working together to renew the futures of the industries we work in. So, what is the next step?

This phase also includes an effort to encourage locals and company management to write joint letters to the Office of Budget and Management and the National Economic Council explaining the work they do and highlighting how the infrastructure plan will improve employment and market conditions. The International has prepared sample letters by industry which you can use as templates for your letters. If you have not received your samples or have other questions about the action, please contact D2 Rapid Response Coordinator Sue Browne at sbrowne@usw.org or give her a call at 269-838-5956.

A letter from you and management will be highly influential with Democrats and Republicans alike. As I said earlier, I think this is a very exciting action with a great opportunity to find common ground with our management counterparts.

I hope you will get excited about it and participate in all upcoming Actions.

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"



2021 District 2 Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

- 1 LM Review Virtual Workshop - Wisconsin (12:00 noon CST)**
LM training will be offered via Zoom. Information will be mailed in January.
- 2 LM Review Virtual Workshop - Michigan (1:00 p.m. EST)**
LM training will be offered via Zoom. Information will be mailed in January.

MARCH

District 2 2020 Collective Bargaining Course - Virtual Training for Locals that have contracts expiring before April 2022
Seven-week course held every Tuesday night or Wednesday morning beginning March 9 & 10, 2021. Classes will be held via Zoom. Detailed information will be sent out soon.

APRIL

- 6 WOS Virtual Quarterly Meeting (WI)**
*9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon OR 5:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. (CST)
Zoom link provided when registration is received.*
- 7 WOS Virtual Quarterly Meeting (MI)**
*9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon OR 5:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. (EST)
Zoom link provided when registration is received.*

MAY

Paper Council Meetings
Dates to be Determined

JUNE

- 15 USW District 2 Virtual Legislative Conference**
*Half Day Conference starting at 9:00 a.m. CT/10:00 a.m. ET
Zoom link provided when registration is received.*
- 23 WOS Virtual Quarterly Meeting**
*8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (central time)
Zoom link provided when registration is received.*
- 25 WOS Virtual Quarterly Meeting**
*9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (eastern time)
Zoom link provided when registration is received.*

Paper Council Meetings
Dates to be Determined

JULY

- 20-22 Virtual National Paper Bargaining Conference**
Information will be mailed soon.

Important Notices From District 2

We apologize for any inconvenience, but the USW District 2 offices are temporarily 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 covid-19 while still representing our members. If you need assistance, you can still call each office; or, call your Staff Representative.



2021 Women of Steel Leadership Development Course

POSTPONED

The safety and health of District 2's members and staff remains a top priority. Therefore, due to the current state of the pandemic, it has been decided to postpone this year's District 2 WOS Leadership Development Course until May of next year (2022).

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.

Workers' Memorial Day Live Stream - April 28, 2021

Workers' Memorial Day Live Stream

April 28, 2021

Please join us for a live stream of our annual Workers Memorial Day Commemoration.

We will hear from USW International President Tom Conway and honor those we lost with a ceremony, including a reading of their names.

DATE: Wednesday, April 28, 2021

TIME: 10:00 a.m. EST

LOCATION: [Virtual, click here to watch](#)



Workers'
Memorial Day
Presentation

Wednesday
April 28, 2021

10 A.M. (EST)



For Immediate Release:
March 25, 2021

Contact: Jess Kamm Broomell,
412-562-2444, jkamm@usw.org

USW Lauds Ohio House Passage of H.R. 13, Calls for Continued Operation of Enbridge Line 5

(Toledo, Ohio) – The United Steelworkers (USW) union today commended the Ohio House of Representatives' passage of H.R. 13, urging Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to help maintain economic stability across the Midwest by allowing Enbridge Line 5 to continue operating.

In November, Whitmer and Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel filed suit to revoke and terminate the 1953 easement that allows Enbridge to operate its dual pipelines through the Straits of Mackinac. H.R. 13 calls for Whitmer to reconsider this decision until the planned tunnel and replacement line can be permitted and completed.

"The futures of hundreds of USW members and their communities hang in the balance in this decision," said USW District 1 Director Donnie Blatt. "H.R. 13 recognizes that ending access to Line 5 jeopardizes these workers' ability to safely and efficiently provide energy to our communities, and that losing these good-paying jobs will have a ripple effect that will stifle economic recovery across the region."

The impact would be particularly stark on the roughly 350 USW members at PBF Energy's Toledo Refining Company, which relies heavily on Line 5 for its crude oil. There are currently no viable alternatives to supply the refinery, which the union estimates adds \$5 billion of economic activity to the surrounding areas.

"While we understand the concerns about the existing line, the fact is that it is not only safe to operate but a necessary part of the fabric of our industry," said USW Local 912 President Justin Donley. "And the replacement project is a common-sense solution that will protect and create jobs, keep a steady energy supply, ensure a secure future, and maintain the economic viability of the region."

Four USW members, including Donley, testified in support of H.R. 13, which the union intends to keep backing as it heads to the Ohio Senate.

The USW represents 850,000 workers 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.

###

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

MESSAGE FROM PITTSBURGH



Thomas M. Conway, International President • Page 1 of 2

Health, Safety & Environment Leader Mike Wright to Retire

After 44 years fighting for the well-being of working people on and off the job, including 37 years as the leader of the USW's health, safety & environment department, Mike Wright is planning to retire.

Wright joined the USW staff in 1977 after training as an industrial engineer at Cornell University and as an MPH industrial hygienist at the Harvard School of Public Health.

"It would be impossible to find a member of the USW, or any union, who hasn't benefitted from the wide-ranging work Mike has done over the past 44 years," said International President Tom Conway. "It's not an exaggeration to say that his efforts have saved countless lives. He leaves behind a tremendous legacy of union building through his lifetime of dedication keeping workers safe and healthy on the job."

Throughout his career, Wright challenged the status quo and championed cooperative approaches to solving workplace health problems, spearheading the formation of union-management committees, training initiatives and other collaborative efforts that have enhanced health and safety for all working people.

Peg Seminario, former director of occupational safety and health for the AFL-CIO, has known Wright for 45 years and said that he has contributed more to advancing the safety and health of workers over that period than anyone else she has known.

"He is dedicated, determined, generous and fiercely loyal. He has been a great colleague to all in the safety and health movement, and a wonderful friend," Seminario said. "Mike has dedicated his working life to improving the lives not only of USW members but workers around the globe."

David LeGrande, former occupational safety and health director for the Communications Workers of America (CWA), worked closely with Wright for many years on the unions' joint weeklong safety conferences that regularly attracted around 1,600 participants from rank and-file workers, as well as management representatives, every 18 months for in-depth discussions and training sessions.

LeGrande credited Wright with building coalitions of labor leaders to fight together for improvements, and with helping to establish numerous Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards and other state and local regulations to protect workers from asbestos, hazardous chemicals and other dangerous materials.

"Without Mike's leadership at the USW, these laws would not have been as comprehensive or, in some cases, even existed," said LeGrande, who pointed out that Wright's work touched millions who never belonged to a union.

"His efforts actually led to the improvement of working conditions for countless numbers of workers," LeGrande said.

Amazing passion

Rank-and-file USW members also had high praise for Wright's advocacy and deep knowledge, whether he was pushing for national standards for entire industries or communicating with members one on one.

Brad Greve, president of Local 105, which represents workers at Arconic's Davenport Works, said Wright brought an impressive level of expertise to every safety issue.

"When you came to him with a problem, he had the ability to understand how it affected people day to day," Greve said. "He could relate to people. The knowledge he had and the passion he had were amazing."

Greve said he was among many who benefitted from health and safety conferences Mike organized over the years with the help of a world-class team that included Jim Frederick, whom President Joe Biden named to one of the top positions at the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Fierce advocacy

Debbie Berkowitz, worker safety and health program director for the National Employment Law Project and former OSHA chief of staff during the Obama administration, called Wright a "fierce advocate" who fought tirelessly for tougher national workplace standards for materials like silica and beryllium, but who also took on smaller fights on behalf of individuals who were fired or faced retaliation for voicing safety concerns.

Wright made Berkowitz a better administrator, using his voice to ensure that her agency didn't cut corners in its efforts to ensure safer workplaces, she said. "That was the power of Mike's advocacy. He made change happen," Berkowitz said.

Other colleagues echoed those sentiments.

Joseph Santarella, an attorney specializing in environmental enforcement, called Wright a "visionary leader" who helped make sure that the EPA enforced healthier Clean Air Act standards.

Meaningful reform

Over the years, Wright also investigated countless workplace incidents and followed them with calls for meaningful reform, the most infamous of which might have been the 1984 Union Carbide gas leak disaster in Bhopal, India.

— continued on page 6 —



For Immediate Release:
March 31, 2021

Contact: Jess Kamm Broomell,
412-562-2444, jkamm@usw.org

USW Applauds Biden Infrastructure Plan

Members Ready to Supply Goods, Services Needed to Rebuild Nation

(Pittsburgh) – *The United Steelworkers (USW) International President Tom Conway released the following statement welcoming President Joe Biden's multi-trillion-dollar jobs and infrastructure package:*

"It's fitting that President Biden chose Pittsburgh to announce his ambitious, far-reaching jobs and infrastructure plan. This city and so many like it across our nation are the homes of not only the industries that will fuel this initiative but also the union members who stand ready to do the work.

"A large-scale investment is certainly long overdue, but more importantly President Biden has made it clear that he, like our union, takes an expansive view of infrastructure.

"This is one that, in addition to repairing our crumbling roads, bridges, waterways and other transportation networks, also ensures that we have state-of-the-art schools, reliable communication systems, robust public health and much more.

"The USW launched a union-wide infrastructure initiative earlier this year called *We Supply America* to identify and advocate for all our members who contribute to meeting America's infrastructure needs, from pouring steel used in bridges to maintaining municipal water systems, from making cement to driving school buses.

"Aggressive investment coupled with strong Buy American provisions will create long-term economic resiliency, strengthening our domestic supply chains and providing a secure economic base for generations to come.

"We welcome President Biden's infrastructure plan and look forward to working with him as it becomes a reality."

The USW represents 850,000 workers 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.

###

MESSAGE FROM PITTSBURGH



Thomas M. Conway, International President • continued from page 5, article page 2 of 2

That event, one of the world's most deadly industrial incidents, killed more than 3,700 and injured more than 500,000. Wright's advocacy and engagement following that event helped to prevent future chemical-related disasters around the world.

Over the years, Wright has served on numerous committees and advisory panels focusing on health, safety and environmental issues. Some of those bodies include the U.S. Department of Labor's National Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health, the Clean Air Act Advisory Committee of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's Mine Health Research Advisory Committee, the National Research Council Committee on Industrial Competitiveness and Environmental Protection, the EPA Common Sense Initiative, the Iron and Steel Sector Federal Advisory Committee, the EPA's Regulatory Negotiation Committee on a National Standard for Coke Oven Emissions and the Allegheny County Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee.

Wright has worked extensively with other labor, public health and educational organizations on international health, safety and environment issues, including the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. He has taught on the subject of safety and health in Zimbabwe, India, Brazil, Poland, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland and Russia.

In addition, he has been a member of the Board of Visitors of the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health and the Committee of Experts of the ILO.

Wright's successor as the union's HSE director will be longtime USW health, safety and environment advocate Steve Sallman, who said it was an honor to follow in Wright's footsteps. "We will miss Mike professionally and personally and we wish him all the best," Sallman said.

"I'm fortunate to have served under Mike's leadership and to have worked with so many other great activists during my time as a full-time health, safety and environment rep at USW Local 310L in Des Moines, Iowa and during my 17-years with the HSE department," Sallman said. "I thank President Conway and the USW for their confidence to lead such an outstanding department. Together with the USW leadership, HSE staff and our members, I look forward to carrying on the great work of building our union around HSE and fighting for safer workplaces."

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

Wall Street Bonuses Skyrocket As Minimum Wage Trails - *By Aimee Picchi, MONEYWATCH*

“Minimum Wage would be \$44 today if it grew at same pace as Wall Street bonuses”

The disconnect between Wall Street and Main Street has perhaps never been more glaring in the past year, when the stock market hit new records even as tens of millions of people lost their jobs due to the pandemic. But it's part of a longer-term trend, with Wall Street bonuses surging 1,217% since 1985, or about 10 times the pace for minimum wage workers during the same stretch.

If the federal minimum wage had kept up with the same growth as Wall Street bonuses, the baseline rate would be \$44, according to a new analysis from the Institute for Policy Studies, a left-leaning think tank that examines income and pay inequality. The baseline wage has been stuck at \$7.25 an hour for more than 11 years, the longest period it's gone without an increase since it began in 1938.

The typical bonus for a Wall Street employee jumped 10% last year to \$184,000, the New York State Comptroller said on Friday, which served as the basis for the IPS' analysis. While there's been a push to increase the federal minimum wage, progress has so far proved elusive. The Biden administration's goal of including a \$15 baseline wage in the American Rescue Plan was abandoned partly after resistance from some lawmakers and business groups.

"This whole picture reinforces the total disconnect between Wall Street and the rest of the economy," said Sarah Anderson, IPS' global economy project director and the author of the analysis. "The fact that people on Wall Street saw such a significant jump in a year when so many people are struggling says so much about the disparities of this crisis."

In 1985, a minimum wage worker earned about \$7,000 annually, while Wall Street bonuses were about twice that, at \$14,000 on average. But by 2020, the typical Wall Street bonus stood at \$184,000, more than 10 times higher than the \$15,080 annual earnings from a minimum wage job.

Anderson said her analysis starts in 1985 because that's the earliest year for which she could find data on Wall Street bonuses.

An hourly wage of \$44 an hour would equate to more than \$91,000 in annual income — a healthy income, but still far below the average annual earnings of \$406,700 for securities professionals, a figure that includes salary and annual bonus.

"In limbo"

To be sure, it's not only Wall Street workers who have profited during the pandemic. Since the coronavirus brought the U.S. to a standstill last March, the economy has experienced what economists call a K-shaped recovery. Low-wage workers continue to experience higher joblessness and income losses, while higher-paid workers — who can often perform their work remotely - are more likely to have bounced back.

About 4 in 10 Americans are continuing to experience a loss of income compared with pre-pandemic times, according to recent research from financial services firm TransUnion. Its analysis found that about 1 in 5 adults are "in limbo," which TransUnion defines as people who have lost income and are unsure how their finances will recover, if at all.

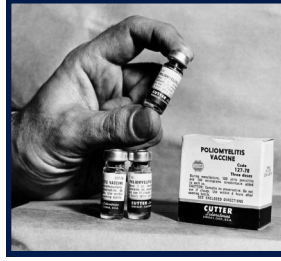
Many of those who have yet to recover from the economic hit of the pandemic are women as well as people of color, an issue that's exacerbating long-standing inequalities in the economy, experts note.

On Wall Street, the people who are enjoying bumps to their bonuses tend to be White and male, according to the IPS' analysis. For instance, about 63% of all securities industry employees are men, but only 33% of minimum wage workers are men. About 8 in 10 securities industry workers are White, but about 5 in 10 workers who earn less than \$15 an hour are White, the analysis found.

"The growing gap between the pay on Wall Street and lower levels of the economy is a driving force between gender and racial disparities," Anderson said. "People of color and women are under-represented at the top end and over-represented at the bottom."

This Month in History • Polio Vaccine Trials Begin • April 26, 1954 - *History.com*

On April 26, 1954, the Salk polio vaccine field trials, involving 1.8 million children, begin at the Franklin Sherman Elementary School in McLean, Virginia. Children in the United States, Canada and Finland participated in the trials, which used for the first time the now-standard double-blind method, whereby neither the patient nor attending doctor knew if the inoculation was the vaccine or a placebo.

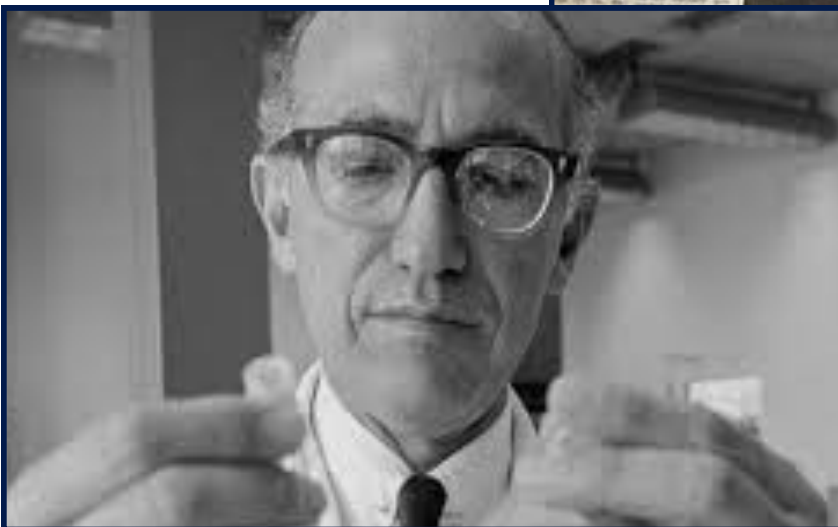
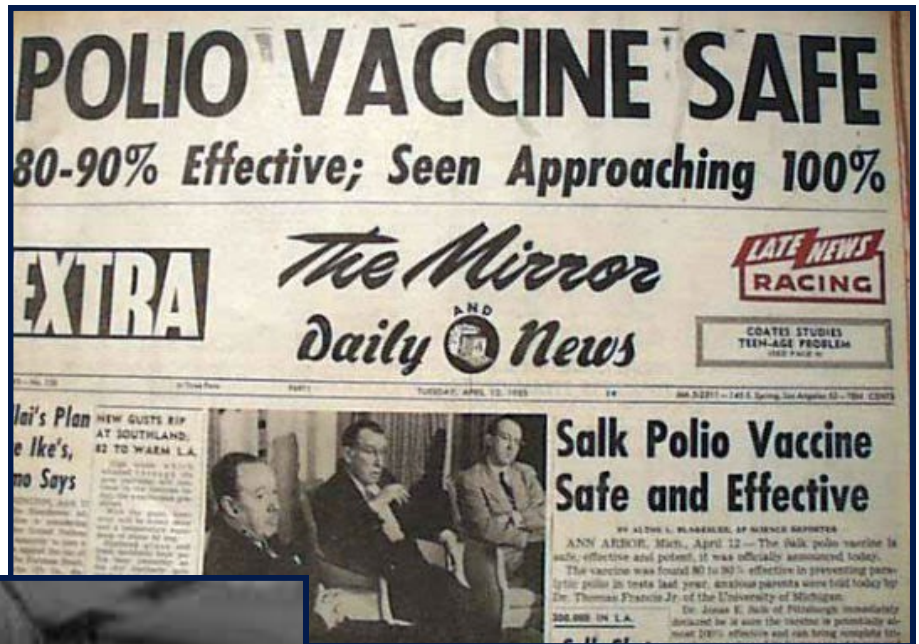


One year later, on April 12, 1955, researchers announced the vaccine was safe and effective and it quickly became a standard part of childhood immunizations in America. In the ensuing decades, polio vaccines would all but wipe out the highly contagious disease in the Western Hemisphere.

Polio, known officially as poliomyelitis, is an infectious disease that has existed since ancient times and is caused by a virus. It occurs most commonly in children and can result in paralysis. The disease reached epidemic proportions throughout the first half of the 20th century. During the 1940s and 1950s, polio was associated with the iron lung, a large metal tank designed to help polio victims suffering from respiratory paralysis breathe.

President Franklin Roosevelt was diagnosed with polio in 1921 at the age of 39 and was left paralyzed from the waist down and forced to use leg braces and a wheelchair for the rest of his life. In 1938, Roosevelt helped found the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, later renamed the March of Dimes. The organization was responsible for funding much of the research concerning the disease, including the Salk vaccine trials.

The man behind the original vaccine was New York-born physician and epidemiologist Jonas Salk (1914-95). Salk's work on an anti-influenza vaccine in the



1940s, while at the University of Michigan School of Public Health, led him, in 1952 at the University of Pittsburgh, to develop the inactivated polio vaccine (IPV), based on a killed-virus strain of the disease. The 1954 field trials that followed, the largest in U.S. history at the time, were led by Salk's former University of Michigan colleague, Dr. Thomas Francis, Jr.

In the late 1950s, Polish-born physician and virologist Albert Sabin (1906-1993) tested an oral polio vaccine (OPV) he had created from a weakened live virus. The vaccine, easier to administer and cheaper to produce than Salk's, became available for use in America in the early 1960s and eventually replaced Salk's

as the vaccine of choice in most countries.

Today, polio has been eliminated throughout much of the world due to the vaccine; however, there is still no cure for the disease and it persists in a small number of countries in Africa and Asia.



MESSAGE FROM PITTSBURGH



Thomas M. Conway, International President

Posted: April 12, 2021 • page 1 of 2

Going Big on Infrastructure

Chris Sova and his co-workers at Bay County Medical Care Facility endured years of staffing shortages before COVID-19 made a grim situation even worse.

Workers sacrificed vacations and other personal time to keep the Essexville, Mich., facility operating as patients and staff members fell ill to the coronavirus and management struggled to recruit reinforcements.

Just like a road can be patched only so many times before falling apart, America's battered health care system and other long-neglected infrastructure can no longer continue functioning with Band-Aids and stopgap fixes.

That's why President Joe Biden's \$2 trillion American Jobs Plan not only earmarks money for crumbling highways and bridges but makes much-needed investments in school buildings, education and training, hospitals and airports, water systems, utilities, broadband, manufacturing facilities and health care services that are strained to the breaking point.

All require attention now because they work together like cement to keep society functioning.

"If you don't have healthy people, you don't need roads," remarked Sova, a licensed practical nurse, third-generation nursing home worker and unit president of United Steelworkers (USW) Local 15301-1.

The pandemic underscored America's need both to make major investments in infrastructure and to take the sweeping, holistic approach that Biden laid out.

For example, it's crucial to revitalize manufacturing supply chains to ensure the nation can produce sufficient supplies of face masks and other critical items, upgrade transportation systems to speedily move goods around the country, modernize school facilities to produce globally competitive citizens and build the communications networks that enable Americans to learn and work from anywhere.

And the pandemic, which so far has claimed more than 561,000 lives and infected about 31 million people in the U.S., not only showed the importance of providing affordable health insurance but creating a more robust health care system with the capacity to meet Americans' needs.

"It's collapsing right now," Sova said of the nation's health care infrastructure.

He noted that facilities and providers around the country need higher Medicaid reimbursement rates so they can recruit adequate numbers of workers, provide decent wages and benefits, combat understaffing, improve workplace safety, offer opportunities for advancement and put an end to the grueling overtime that's dangerous both for caregivers and the people they serve.

While health care workers received wide praise for their professionalism during the pandemic, the reality is that, even in normal times, they're fighting an uphill battle to ensure patients receive top-level care. It's essential to make improvements now because retiring waves of baby boomers will put more pressure on the system, increasing the risk of catastrophic failures.

"Pizzas are nice, but that's not what we need," Sova said, referring to gifts of food that workers at his facility and other nursing homes received for their heroic efforts during the pandemic. "We need money. We need funding. We need resources."

Other kinds of infrastructure are also in dire straits.

The nation's drinking water systems struggle with lead contamination and rely on pipes so old that, on average, one springs a leak every two minutes. Malfunctioning locks and dams create juggernauts on inland waterways, costing U.S. industry about \$44 million in delays every year. Nearly half of all Americans have no access to public transit, and those who do often have to travel on aging vehicles and rickety tracks.

A smoothly functioning society cannot afford any of this. Because of its wide-ranging investments, the American Jobs Plan will modernize the country, prepare it for the next crisis and provide work to millions of Americans hurt by the COVID-19 recession.

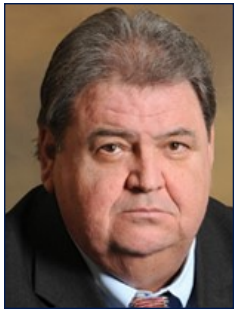
But the plan also provides a historic opportunity to dream big and rebuild better, to ensure a more equitable distribution of the nation's resources and create a society that works for everyone.

That's why Americans already support every major facet of the infrastructure program, with some parts — such as renovating



Getty Images

— continued on page 10 —



MESSAGE FROM PITTSBURGH



Thomas M. Conway, International President

Posted: April 12, 2021 • page 2 of 2 - continued from page 9

Going Big on Infrastructure

veterans hospitals, extending broadband, improving health care and establishing new job-training programs—scoring approval ratings of 70 percent or even higher. As Biden travels the country to explain his vision, he’s finding that people from all backgrounds want a stronger, more tightly knit America.

And so far, Biden revealed only half of his plan. He’s scheduled to roll out the remaining portions—to include additional investments in health care and child care, among other initiatives—in coming weeks.

“I think he’s absolutely on the right track,” said Joel Buchanan, a longtime USW member from Pueblo, Colo., and the vice president of Chapter 38-3 of the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR). “In my area, we will benefit from almost every aspect of his infrastructure plan.”

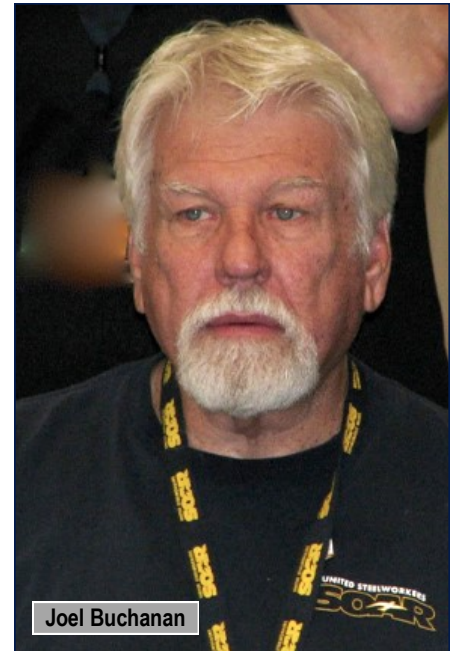
Local mills will profit from road and bridge projects, Buchanan noted. Residents in outlying areas will welcome better access to broadband, he added, while disadvantaged schools need upgraded facilities, and Pueblo area retirees, many of whom lost family-sustaining manufacturing jobs many years ago, desperately hope for better access to health care.

“We’re investing in America and American workers and American society,” Buchanan said of the infrastructure program. “We’re building for the future. I think people are starting to realize we can make some great change happen.”

Because he holds his neighbors’ lives in his hands, Sova always considered health care to be part of the nation’s infrastructure.

He wants more Americans to see his work in the same light—and to realize the potential the nation has right now to make transformational, stem-to-stern changes that will help them “live their lives better.”

“Everything’s co-dependent,” he said. “You need healthy workers. You need them to build roads. You need roads to provide access to health care.”



Joel Buchanan

FACE MASKS AVAILABLE

If your local is looking to purchase additional face masks, please consider supporting our brothers and sisters at American Roots. They have been working tirelessly throughout the pandemic to produce crucial PPE and masks for essential workers, and are now offering a discount on their remaining masks.

To place an order for face masks with one logo, please contact Ben Waxman at Ben@americanrootswear.com. The boxes on the right show the current special pricing being offered to USW locals.

General Prices

AR Mask with one logo:
Regular Price: \$7.75

Discounted Price with
one logo: \$6.00



Example of Unit Orders: \$6.00

2,500 Units: \$15,000/Savings \$4,375
5,000 Units: \$30,000/Savings \$8,750
7,500 Units: \$45,000/Savings \$13,125
10,000 Units: \$60,000/Savings \$17,500



<https://americanrootswear.com>

RETIREMENT/FINANCIAL READINESS VIRTUAL WEBINARS OFFERED MONTHLY



We Are Here For You

VIRTUAL Retirement/Financial Readiness Education Webinars

2nd & 3rd Wednesday of every month 10:00am & 6:00pm CST

Although we cannot meet in person, we would like to meet with you virtually to review your retirement account and cover any questions or concerns you might have.

Month/Topic:

- **Jan:** Your 401K Retirement Plan
- **Feb:** College Planning
- **March:** Estate Planning Basics
- **April:** Social Security
- **May:** ROTH IRA Basics
- **June-Aug – Summer-** None

All virtual education meetings are 30 minutes or less

We look forward to continuing to be a resource for your retirement goals!

3 Easy Steps to Participate



1. *On day / time you desire go to website: www.ZOOM.com (try to be 5 minutes early)*
2. *Click on "Join a Meeting" (top right of webpage).*

*Enter your meeting number(#) below & click to join.
 "All Times are Central Time Zone "*

- 2nd Wed 10:00 am Meeting# 954-9209-5389*
- 2nd Wed 6:00 pm Meeting# 985-6376-7044*
- 3rd Wed 10:00 am Meeting# 992-5296-0816*
- 3rd Wed 6:00 pm Meeting# 918-5309-6105*

3. *Enter Meeting Password: #unionedu1*

Brian Goode

Financial Representative
 Unionized Financial Advisor
 Principal Securities Registered Representative

goode.brian@principal.com

Direct: 262-835-9111

www.unionplanning.com

Insurance products issued by Principal National Life Insurance Co. (except in NY), Principal Life Insurance Co., and the companies available through the Preferred Product Network, Inc. Securities and advisory products offered through Principal Securities, Inc., 800/247-1737, member SIPC. Principal National, Principal Life, the Preferred Product Network, and Principal Securities, Inc. are members of the Principal Financial Group®, Des Moines, IA 50392. Brian Goode, Principal National and Principal Life Financial Representative, Principal Securities Registered Representative, Financial Advisor. Union Financial, Inc. is not an affiliate of any company of the Principal Financial Group®. 1303772-082020

FREE for UNION MEMBERS: *Now Enrolling for Summer Classes starting June 7, 2021*

Imagine What You Can Achieve With The... **USW FREE COLLEGE BENEFIT**

Come and see what everyone
is getting excited about,
A DEGREE FOR FREE!



Union Members and their families can earn an Associates Degree with
NO out-of-pocket cost.

FREE COLLEGE BENEFIT FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

The USW Free College Benefit offers working families debt-free and convenient higher education opportunity. You, your spouse, children, financial dependents and grandchildren, can all take advantage of this exciting opportunity.

EASTERN GATEWAY CREDITS ARE TRANSFERABLE

Eastern Gateway Community College is a public, non-profit school in the University System of Ohio and is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Credits you earn can transfer to other school, potentially saving you thousands of dollars.

ZERO OUT-OF-POCKET COST

Members and their families can earn an ASSOCIATE Degree online, with no out-of-pocket cost. A last dollar scholarship covers the difference between any Federal Grants and your tuition, fees and e-books at Eastern Gateway Community College (EGCC).

Visit **FreeCollege.USW.org**
or call **888-590-9009**



"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"