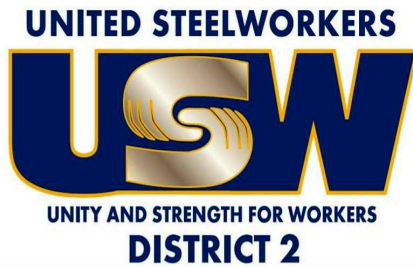




MICHAEL H. BOLTON, DIRECTOR



NEWS

MAY 2021 • VOLUME 11, ISSUE 5 PAGE 1

DISTRICT 2 CONTACT INFORMATION

USW District 2 Office
1244A Midway Road
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(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	LUF#	Sector	Email Address
Ron Fancsal	1299	Steel and Related	rfancsal@yahoo.com
Don Carlson	59	Paper	doncarlson@gda.net
Robert Desmond	13792	Amalgamated	rmdbades@aol.com
Jesse Edwards	2-232	Automotive Related	Jesse_edwards21910@yahoo.com
Kent Holzing	12075	Chemical & Energy Related	kentholzing@gmail.com
Jackie Anklam	9899	Health Care	jackieanklam_uswlocal889@yahoo.com
Michael Orvosh	12654	Public	m.orvosh@uswlocal12834.com
Sris Hennricks	1327	At Large	Eric.hennricks@alliancia.com
Matthew Gibbons	5965	At Large	usw5963@gmail.com
Jim Whitt	2-145	Allied Industrial	whittjim@yahoo.com



United Steelworkers District 2 AFL-CIO-CLC

MICHAEL H. BOLTON, Director
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Contributors to this issue include:
Lori Gutekunst; Tammy Duncan; Jay McMurrain;
Chris Haddock; Cindy Odden; USW New Media;
Thomas Conway; USW International President;
AFL-CIO; History.com

Articles and photos are welcome and should be sent:

Jason Wilcox & Art Kroll, Co-Editors, District 2 News
1244A Midway Rd., Menasha, WI 54952
a2@usw.org • (920) 722-7630

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

"We Support Mass Investment in our Country's Failing Infrastructure"

A Message from Michael Bolton



The covid-19 pandemic has been challenging, to say the least, but it has provided some real eye openers. In addition to revealing how vulnerable America is to a major health crisis, the pandemic also exposed how years of failed U.S. trade policies have left our supply chain reliant on our competitors for vital products and services. For example, at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic in the U.S., the CDC issued a guidance advising us that masks were not needed to slow the spread of covid-19. It turned out the Center issued that flawed advice to prevent a shortage of personal protection equipment (PPE) for health care workers and other first responders. We now know that guidance may have caused more harm than good. Who knows - maybe making masks available to every American early on could have possibly changed the curve of the pandemic in a positive direction. So, why wasn't there enough PPE to go around?

Thirty years of NAFTA and shipping jobs south to exploit cheap labor meant PPE was being made in other countries. They were producing the goods and keeping them to meet their own needs. While Washington watched idly as entire industries were decimated by unfair foreign trade, our representatives failed to recognize the need to keep critical industries safe from off-shoring. Without that type of foresight, the coronavirus hit and we were left begging the world for the goods needed to protect our healthcare workers.

We are also seeing another shortage playing out due to our lack of a common sense industrial policy. Right now, manufacturers across the country are seeing production slowed, and even idled, due to a shortage of computer chips and the semi-conductors used to produce them. The U.S. used to be the world leader in computer chip technology and production; but, like PPE, we let that advantage slip away as thousands of chip-making jobs were sent overseas.

Another disruption in the supply chain occurred recently as Russian-based hackers brought down the Colonial Pipeline, disrupting distribution of oil and fuel in the south and on the east coast. While this incident is not related to trade policies, it, too, is the result of government short-sightedness. Ransom attacks are nothing new. They have been happening for years. Even as the threats have escalated, our government is not acting to prevent future interruptions.

Congress and the Administration must sit down with industry leaders to implement policies

and programs to stem the attacks on our supply chain. I hope they got the message of the last attack and will act soon to establish new policies.

To emphasize the important need to ensure our country and its manufacturers have a safe, reliable supply chain, which is critical to our economic success and national security, the USW has initiated a campaign called "We Supply America". Its intent is to raise awareness of what the supply chain is and why it is so critical to our country's success and leadership. As we look around the country today, we can see the devastation brought upon industry, and industry, and industry, etc. Steel, aluminum, paper, and rubber, just to name a few, have lost huge chunks of market share and jobs because of government enactment. Our goal is to convince our representatives that our country needs a healthy industrial sector.

We saw the result of the shortage of PPE. Where are we going to get the steel to produce the goods we need to protect our country? If you think that is an exaggeration, consider this: 20 years ago, the Downriver Detroit Area had seven operating blast furnaces, producing over six million tons of steel annually. Today, there is just one blast furnace with less than a two million ton capacity. The same thing is happening in the other industries I mentioned above.

Another part of the "We Supply" movement is our Union's support for mass investment in our country's failing infrastructure. Our roads, railways, seaports and airports are vital links industries use to transport their goods. No country can remain an economic powerhouse without a reliable delivery system which is why we are pushing Washington to invest big in our crumbling infrastructure. Not only will a large investment in infrastructure keep our country competitive, it will also create millions of good paying jobs in construction and industries that supply the projects, which, in turn, will lead to more jobs as workers spend to create greater demand for products and services in other areas of our economy.

Our Union is asking all members contact their U.S. Senators and member of the House of Representatives and urge them to support strengthening our supply chain and to invest in modernizing our infrastructure. District 2 Rapid Response Coordinator Sue Browne has information you and your Local can use when talking to your representatives about these critical issues. Sue can be contacted at (269) 838-5956 or via e-mail at sbrowne@usw.org.

While we are on the subject of the supply chain, there is a situation playing out in Michigan that could adversely impact jobs of Steelworkers in Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Ontario. At issue is an oil pipeline that runs through the Straits of Mackinac,

— continued on page 2 —

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

Did you know?



THERE'S STILL TIME . . .

Registrations are still being accepted for the June 15th Virtual Legislative Conference.

GET YOURS IN TODAY!

**BUILD BACK
BETTER WITH
UNIONS**
PASS THE PRO ACT
AFL-CIO

Call your U.S. Senators and tell them to pass the PRO Act now!

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act last year, but anti-worker legislators in the Senate blocked it. Undeterred, working people fought to elect pro-worker lawmakers to the Senate, House and White House. And, we won.

Lawmakers gave us their word they would make the PRO Act a top priority. It's time for them to keep that promise. The House passed the PRO Act for a second time on March 9, 2021, sending the bill to the U.S. Senate.

The PRO Act is the cornerstone of the AFL-CIO's [Workers First Agenda](#). If it passes, it would:

- Empower workers to organize and bargain.
- Hold corporations accountable for union-busting.
- Repeal "right to work" laws, which were created during the Jim Crow era to keep White and Black workers from organizing together.

Stronger unions mean higher wages, safer working conditions and dignity for all people who work. The PRO Act is our first step to get there.

Tell them to vote "YES" on the PRO Act.



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

just beneath the Mackinac Bridge. Opponents argue that a pipeline eruption could lead to environmental and economic devastation for the area. To address their concerns, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer ordered the pipeline shutdown on May 12.

Even as the Steelworkers support the Governor in most instances, we differ with her on the pipeline. We believe that shutting down the pipeline is the wrong thing to do. It would result in the immediate loss of up to 5,000 Steelworkers at the five refineries, lead to higher fuel prices, and gas and propane shortages. Also, a pipeline shutdown would create new environmental concerns for the region. For example, Enbridge would be forced to find alternative ways to ship its products, meaning hundreds of more trucks, boats and trains transporting oil to the refineries, leading to increased air and water pollution, greater risks for accidental spills and accidents; not to mention, putting additional strain on our already stressed infrastructure.

The Steelworkers' position on this issue is it is not an all or nothing proposition. Instead, we support a plan that allows the pipeline to continue to operate as Enbridge begins the process of building a tunnel beneath the Straits. Upon completion of the tunnel, a pipeline would be constructed inside it to replace the current route. Having the pipeline in a fully contained tunnel would eliminate the possibility of a catastrophic event crippling the region. We believe the tunnel is a win-win situation that protects jobs and the environment. Our Union urges Governor Whitmer to join with us to support our common sense approach to a serious issue.

Note: the May 12 deadline has passed and Enbridge continues to operate the pipeline in defiance of the Governor's order. The company maintains the Governor does not have the authority to close the 600 plus mile pipeline. Obviously, this one will be decided in the courts. We will keep you posted. Arguing the Governor lacks authority to act on the pipeline, Enbridge, the company that operates the 600 plus mile line, has defied the order and continues to pump oil to the five oil refineries in the U.S. and Canada. We are asking Steelworkers in District 2 to contact the Governor to urge her to support good paying Union jobs and a common sense alternative to a pipeline closure.

Another way to prevent a major oil spill and environmental disaster is to reduce our country's reliance on fossil fuels. To highlight that effort, President Joe Biden was in District 2 on May 18 to help the Ford Motor Company unveil its brand new all electric F-150 pickup truck. In recent months, all three U.S. automakers have introduced new electric vehicles, including the production of an all-electric version of the iconic Ford Mustang.

As part of his visit, Biden toured the historic Ford Dearborn Assembly Plant in suburban Detroit. The factory played a pivotal role in the UAW's efforts to organize autoworkers in the 1930's. It is home to the infamous Miller Road Overpass, where Walter Reuther and several other UAW officials were viciously beaten by members of the Ford Security Department.

The production of electric vehicles is something the Steelworkers and our partners in the Blue-Green Alliance have supported for years. Coupled with the move to wind and solar energy, it represents a gradual shift from fossil fuel to alternative energy, which is what it has to be - a gradual and well thought out plan to protect our environment and our economy. Government and industry must work together to determine our best alternatives and to develop plans to train workers for those jobs. This issue is far too important to simply leave it to chance.

Finally, our Union continues to ask Steelworkers to contact their U.S. Senator and encourage them to support the Protect the Right to Organize (PRO) Act. In District 2, three of our four Senators are on board with modernizing our archaic labor laws. Only Wisconsin Republican Ron Johnson has not committed to vote for the legislation. It is going to take a full court press to move Johnson to support the Act, but it can be done if all of us contact him and tell him why the PRO Act is needed.

The first and foremost reason to support the PRO Act is the current standard, the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), was passed in 1935. Since that time, other legislation and executive actions have weakened the law and skewed the process toward the employer. Let's face it, 86 years is a long time. Conditions existing back then are not the same as we face today. The law must be updated to

— continued on page 4 —

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"



2021 District 2 Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

- LM Review Virtual Workshop - Wisconsin (12:00 noon CST)**
LM training will be offered via Zoom. Information will be mailed in January.
- 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, 2022. Classes will be held via Zoom. Detailed information will be sent out soon.

APRIL

- 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.*
- 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 (all meetings listed are in eastern time)

5 Green Bay Packaging	2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. - Zoom
10 Neenah Paper	2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. - Zoom
12 Verso	8:00 a.m. (conference call)
13 Kimberly Clark	2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. - Zoom
14 Ahlstrom-Munksjo	2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. - Zoom
17 ND Paper	10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. - Zoom
18 Cascades	4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. - Zoom
19 Multi-Employer Mills	4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. - Zoom
21 Sonoco	4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. - Zoom
24 Graphic Packaging	4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. - Zoom
25 Essity	2:00 p.m. until 3:45 p.m. - Zoom
25 Dunn	4:00 p.m. until 5:45 p.m. - Zoom
27 Greif	5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. - Zoom

JUNE

Paper Council Meetings (all meetings listed are in eastern time)

1 Pixelle	4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. - Zoom
2 Georgia Pacific Box	4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. - Zoom
3 International Paper Box	4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. - Zoom
8 Menasha	4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. - Zoom
10 International Paper Mills	4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. - Zoom
14 Amcor	4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. - Zoom

- 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.*

Paper Council Meetings (all meetings listed are in eastern time)

15 Georgia Pacific Mills	4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. - Zoom
15 Atlas Holdings	6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. - Zoom
16 WestRock Mills	4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. - Zoom
17 Domtar	6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. - Zoom
23 PCA Mills	4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. - Zoom

JUNE continued

- WOS Virtual Quarterly Meeting**
*8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (central time)
 Zoom link provided when registration is received.*
- WOS Virtual Quarterly Meeting**
*9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (eastern time)
 Zoom link provided when registration is received.*

Paper Council Meetings (all meetings listed are in eastern time)

25 WestRock Box	4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. - Zoom
28 Clearwater	3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. - Zoom
29 Multi-Employer Converters	3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. - Zoom
30 PCA Box	4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. - Zoom

JULY

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

SEPTEMBER

- District 2 Council Meeting**
Red Lion Hotel - Paper Valley • 333 W College Avenue, Appleton, WI 54911



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).

Important Notice From District 2

All District 2 offices are now open. However, the health and safety of our members and staff is our number one priority, and we are committed to doing our part to prevent the further spread of covid-19 while representing our members.

It is recommended that you contact your Staff Representative or the office prior to your visit to make sure someone is available to assist you.

Also, please be aware that District 2 policy requires everyone entering the office properly wear masks that fully cover your nose and mouth.

We appreciate your patience as we work through this pandemic.



THERE'S STILL TIME . . .

Registrations are still being accepted for the June 15th Virtual Legislative Conference.

Get yours in today!

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.

A Message from Director Bolton - continued from page 2

reflect the current time we live in!

Second, labor law is one of the few American laws that carry no penalties for those whom violate it. Currently, if an employer breaks the law, they simply have to post a notice acknowledging the violation. In the case of wrongful termination for Union involvement, the boss may be ordered to pay the affected worker full back pay and benefits; however, for most employers, that is a small price to pay for beating an organizing drive.

The time to act is now. Call your Representatives and Senators and remind them, now is the time to support those who elected them. Now is the time to start strengthening America's future by supporting the PRO Act and by supporting a large investment in infrastructure. As the covid-19 pandemic has showed us, time is of the essence.

USW District 2 Offices' Summer Hours

Please note there will be modified summer hours for some District 2 offices. These new hours will begin on Tuesday, June 1, 2021, and will continue through Tuesday, August 31, 2021. Normal business hours will resume on Wednesday, September 1, 2021.

Menasha, Wisconsin	7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Monday – Thursday) 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Friday)
West Allis, Wisconsin	8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Monday – Friday)
Taylor, Michigan	7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Monday – Thursday) 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Friday)
Bay City, Michigan	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Monday – Friday)

Please share this information with your membership.
 Feel free to contact the District 2 office with any questions.
 Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Support the Continued Operation of Enbridge Line 5 until the Great Lakes Tunnel Project is Complete!

The Line 5 fight continues. Here is an update on the work to keep Enbridge Line 5 operational. Members of Local 912 in Toledo have been working tirelessly to bring attention to the consequences of a potential Line 5 disruption and the need for the replacement line.

This included testifying in the Ohio House of Representatives, which, on March 25, [passed a resolution](#) urging the continued operation of the line. USW members will also testify in the Michigan legislature and participated in an action outside the Michigan State Capitol on May 11th.

These Union Brothers and Sisters also need your help. Please [sign the petition](#) to show support for our members at USW Local 912. You can also visit their [website](#) for more information.



"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"



Monday Morning Minute USW Paper Sector

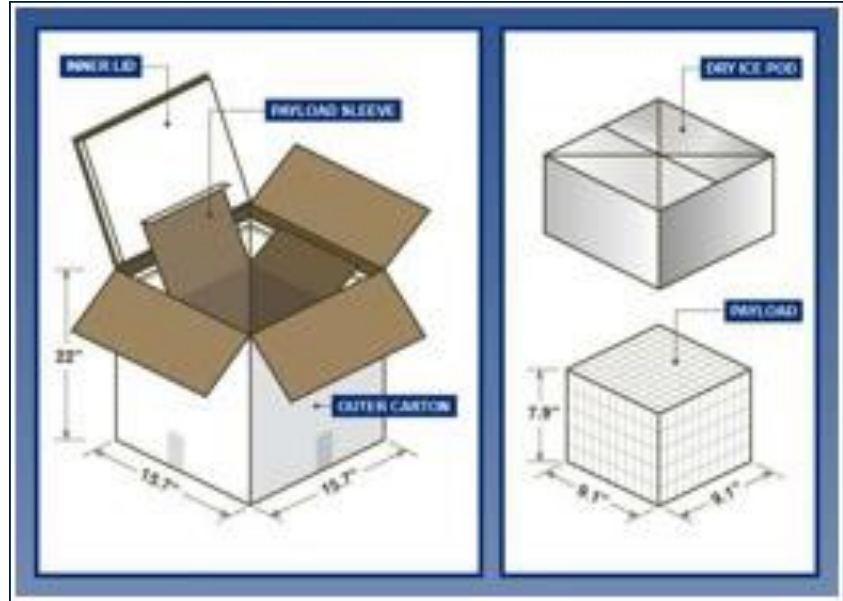
Monday, May 10, 2021

Packaging Corporation of America COVID-19 Vaccine Shipping Box will be on Display as Part of the Smithsonian's Exhibit on the Pandemic

Packaging Corporation of America designed a corrugated box for shipping COVID-19 vaccines that keep the vials safe and at the requisite extremely low temperature of negative 70 to negative 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Several different pieces of corrugated medium are needed to keep the vials suspended and to prevent them from touching the dry ice that is included in the shipping box.

Production of the vaccine boxes began in August 2020. Because of its importance in history, the first shipment — including PCA's box and all of its interior packaging — recently became part of the Smithsonian National Museum of American History's exhibit on the global pandemic. The exhibit will include other materials related to the first vaccine dose given in addition to the special shipping equipment; among them the medical scrubs and ID badge of the New York City nurse who was America's first coronavirus vaccine recipient.

While the speed at which the COVID-19 vaccines were developed and created was certainly an enormous undertaking, the additional complexity of safely transporting them makes the task all the more impressive. The Smithsonian exhibit now solidifies the paper industry's role in helping to save lives and ending the pandemic. A photo diagram of the box components is included.



What Consumers Don't Know about the Sustainability of Paper Products

A new survey from Two Sides North America shows that U.S. consumers underestimate print and paper products' unique contributions to a circular economy. A new survey commissioned by Two Sides North America titled, "Paper's Place in a Post-Pandemic World," sought to explore and better understand consumer perceptions, behaviors and preferences related to the sustainability of paper products. As attention turns to developing a more sustainable, circular economy, the paper and paper-based packaging industry has a great, fact-based environmental story to tell: Paper is one of the few products that can already claim to have a truly circular life cycle.

Paper recycling in the United States is a hands down environmental success story. But according to the survey, only 11% of consumers believe the U.S. recycling rate exceeds 60% and nearly a quarter believe it's less than 20%. The fact: More than two-thirds of all paper and paper-based packaging in the U.S. is recycled, and more than 90% of corrugated cardboard boxes is recycled according to the American Forest and Paper Association. In addition, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reports that paper is the most recycled material in the country, compared to plastics at 8.4%, glass at 26.6% and metals at 33.3%.

As the pandemic forced meetings, events and day-to-day business to online communication and consumers increasingly relied on the internet for news and information, 67% of those surveyed believe that electronic communication is more environmentally friendly than paper-based communication. The facts: The EPA reports that the pulp and paper industry accounts for only 1.2% of U.S. industrial greenhouse gas emissions and only 0.5% of total U.S. GHG emissions — which shouldn't be surprising since two-thirds of the energy used to power U.S. paper industry operations is generated using renewable, carbon neutral biomass. In contrast, the energy consumption required for digital technologies is increasing 9% each year, and the share of digital technology in global greenhouse gas emissions could rise to 8% by 2025.

UNITED STEELWORKERS **USW News** UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS

For Immediate Release:
May 10, 2021

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

USW Backs Petition to Enforce Mexican Workers' Labor Rights

(Pittsburgh) – USW International President Tom Conway issued the following statement in response to a petition filed today under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) focusing on labor violations at the Mexican auto-parts factory Tridonex:

"The USW applauds the initiative spearheaded by the AFL-CIO to file the first-ever petition under the USMCA in an effort to hold Mexico accountable for enforcing its labor standards.

"One of the hard-fought victories of the USMCA was that it provided a rapid response mechanism that allows the United States to take action against individual factories that violate workers' rights.

"Workers at Tridonex's Matamoros plant have seen their rights trampled for far too long. They, like all workers, deserve the opportunity to choose representation by an independent union and negotiate for a fair contract that reflects their needs and priorities.

"We have every faith that the Interagency Labor Committee will swiftly review this petition and ensure that our trade system benefits workers on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border."

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.

###

Milwaukee Area WOS Volunteer for the Milwaukee Riverkeeper Project - submitted by Cindy Odden

On April 24, the Southern Wisconsin Area Women of Steel Council was invited to help at a spring cleanup event hosted by the Milwaukee Riverkeeper. Volunteers were divided to clean up 68 different locations across the Milwaukee river basin.

Cindy Odden, Area Coordinator for the Southern Wisconsin WOS Council, stated, "It was so nice for the women to get outside after the covid-19 quarantine and volunteer for this community's Milwaukee Riverkeeper Spring Cleanup project."

The Milwaukee Riverkeeper's work includes, but is not limited to, water monitoring and river restoration. They oversee issues such as water conservation, pollutants and contaminants, and Milwaukee sewer history. They also provide education and training. Their webpage proudly states, "Helping Our Waters Thrive Since '95". For more information regarding the Milwaukee river basin or to report pollution, please visit the Milwaukee Riverkeeper's website at milwaukeekeeper.org.

Pictured below are Linda Peterson, wearing pink mask (Local 226M), Paula Uhing, wearing blue mask (Local 2-369), and Rachel Meyers, wearing yellow mask (USW associate member).



"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"



INFOALERT

May 10, 2021

Sticking with Our Core Values: Investing in American Infrastructure

Infrastructure Educational Series – Issue 1

Our union launched a campaign, *We Supply America*, because we know our nation needs aggressive investment in infrastructure to help revitalize our economy and communities. This became even more clear when the American Society of Civil Engineers released their most recent report card giving our nation an overall grade of C-.

Rebuilding not only our physical infrastructure – like crumbling roads, bridges, ports and waterways – but also, the social infrastructure of our schools, communications networks and public health services – will both make us safer and put people back to work. Done right, this will also create long-term economic resiliency as we use the materials we make, invest in our domestic supply chains, build on American ingenuity, and provide a secure economic base for generations to come.

What is the Steelworker Connection? Hundreds of thousands of our members stand to benefit from infrastructure investment. Here are just a few examples of how we play a key role in supply chains and depend on reliable infrastructure to make and do the things that move our country:

- **Our Primary Metals Sector** — Noranda Alumina, in Gramercy, LA, is the last remaining alumina refinery in the U.S., and is home to our members of USW Local 5702. Each Spring, this facility is impacted by the high-water stages of the lower Mississippi that restricts the import of key raw materials needed for their operation in addition to impacting shipping to customers up the river. Much needed investments in our nation's waterways will allow this critical operation to remain intact long term, reduce dependence on China for supplies, and allow them to support our national defense.
- **Our Oil Sector** — More than 1,600 USW members at PBF Energy refine fuels to make modern life possible. Their gasoline gets Americans to the doctor's office, schools, and grocery stores, while their diesel and jet fuel powers trucks, trains, and airplanes, delivering goods to consumers' doorsteps. The asphalt they produce paves our roadways, while petrochemical feedstocks become countless products in daily life, including medicine, fiberglass, clothing, building materials, and thousands of other applications.
- **Our Paper Sector** — The 112 members of USW Local 1069 at Sappi Westbrook Mill in Westbrook, ME, manufacture specialty papers that service the global market in a variety of goods. Their supply chains rely on infrastructure to source raw materials and service customers. Their business is directly tied to safe, efficient, and well-maintained highways, bridges, railroads, ports, waterways, and airports to move their products.

Although these are just a few examples, as we continue to dig into the work our members do, we are finding that USW members in every corner of our union stand ready to supply the goods and services needed to build up our nation. From the steel, glass, cement, rubber and other building blocks of our infrastructure along with those who make the packaging for them, to those who keep our schools, hospitals, telecommunication networks and other essential services running.

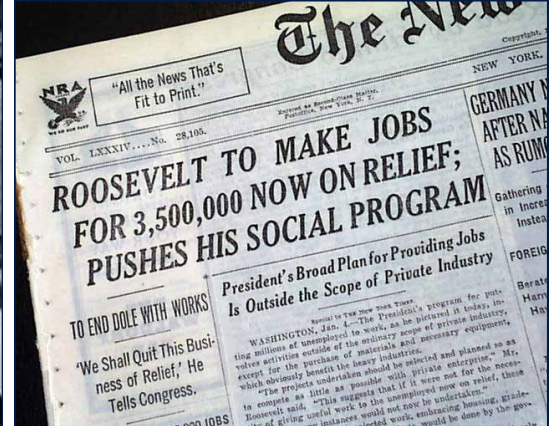
USW Rapid Response ☎ (412) 562-2291 • <http://www.uswrr.org> • www.facebook.com/USWRapidResponse

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

This Month in History • May 6, 1935 • FDR Creates the Work Progress Administration (WPA) - History.com

On May 6, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs an executive order creating the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The WPA was just one of many Great Depression relief programs created under the auspices of the Emergency Relief Appropriations Act, which Roosevelt had signed the month before. The WPA, the Public Works Administration (PWA) and other federal assistance programs put unemployed Americans to work in return for temporary financial assistance.

Out of the 10 million jobless men in the United States in 1935, three million were helped by WPA jobs alone.



While FDR believed in the elementary principles of justice and fairness, he also expressed disdain for doling out welfare to otherwise able workers. So, in return for their monetary aid, WPA workers built highways, schools, hospitals, airports and playgrounds. They restored theaters—such as the Dock Street Theater in Charleston, S.C.—and built the ski lodge at Oregon's Mt. Hood. The WPA also put actors, writers and other creative arts professionals back to work by sponsoring federally funded plays, art projects, such as murals on public buildings, and literary publications. FDR safeguarded private enterprise from competition with WPA projects by including a provision in the act that placed wage and price controls on federally funded products or services.

Opponents of the New Deal in Congress gradually pared back WPA appropriations in the years leading up to World War II. By 1940, the economy was roaring back to life with a surge in defense-industry production and, in 1943, Congress suspended many of the programs under the ERA Act, including the WPA.

This Month in History • May 14, 1796 • Early Smallpox Vaccine is Tested - History.com



Edward Jenner, an English country doctor from Gloucestershire, administers the world's first vaccination as a preventive treatment for smallpox, a disease that had killed millions of people over the centuries.

While still a medical student, Jenner noticed that milkmaids who had contracted a disease called cowpox, which caused blistering on cow's udders, did not catch smallpox. Unlike smallpox, which caused severe skin eruptions and dangerous fevers in humans, cowpox led to few ill symptoms in these women.

On May 14, 1796, Jenner took fluid from a cowpox blister and scratched it into the skin of James Phipps, an eight-year-old boy. A single blister rose up on the spot, but James soon recovered. On July 1, Jenner inoculated the boy again, this time with smallpox matter, and no disease developed. The vaccine was a success. Doctors all over Europe soon adopted Jenner's innovative technique, leading to a drastic decline in new sufferers of the devastating disease.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, scientists following Jenner's model developed new vaccines to fight numerous deadly diseases, including polio, whooping cough, measles, tetanus, yellow fever, typhus, and hepatitis B and many others. More sophisticated smallpox vaccines were also developed and by 1970 international vaccination programs, such as those undertaken by the World Health Organization, had eliminated smallpox worldwide.



MESSAGE FROM PITTSBURGH



Thomas M. Conway, International President

Posted: May 12, 2021 • page 1 of 2

America's Thirst

Simon and Barbara Hale dropped a small fortune on bottled water, battled rust-stained laundry and endured slimy showers before discovering the water from their well didn't just taste, smell and feel awful but actually endangered their health.

The Vietnam veteran and his wife couldn't afford the huge expense of connecting to the local water system, however, so about a dozen volunteers from United Steelworkers (USW) Local 12160 dug a trench, tapped the main and ran a service line into the couple's home.

"It's life-changing," Barbara Hale said of the free work by the USW members, all of whom work at South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, noting she and her husband have clean, palatable water for the first time in years. "I just feel safe because we know there's no question about what's in it."

President Joe Biden's infrastructure program would deliver the same security to millions of other Americans thirsting for one of life's basic necessities.

Among many other projects in his \$2 trillion American Jobs Plan, Biden proposed about \$110 billion in long-overdue upgrades to the nation's patchwork of foundering water systems. The unprecedented investment will not only make life more convenient for consumers but protect their health and build stronger communities.

"It's definitely time for somebody to take action," said Local 12160 President Domenic DeDomenico, a water treatment operator at the authority who heard about the Hales' plight and mustered the crew of Steelworkers who saved the couple thousands of dollars in connection costs.

DeDomenico and his authority co-workers proudly supply about 430,000 people via 1,700 miles of pipes in 15 municipalities. They treat, test and monitor the supply around the clock, distributing, on average, more than 42 million gallons of "perfect" water every day.

Many Americans long for that high level of quality and dependability right now.

In the authority's own service area, for example, are residents who still lack access to public mains as well as the financial resources to connect to them. "Can you do that for us?" some of the Hales' wistful neighbors asked the volunteers.

Across the country, ramshackle and disintegrating infrastructure delivers mere dribs and drabs of the clean, safe water Americans need every day.

Some families drink foul-tasting, smelly well water, like the Hales did before a recent test revealed traces of oil and other contaminants that required an urgent switch to the public water system.

Others travel dozens of miles to collect potable water each day because they live in areas with low water tables or because sewage or other pollutants foul the same streams or pipes used to source drinking supplies. Because of water quality and related problems in McDowell County, West Virginia, for example, one local food bank experiences greater demand for bottled water than any other item.

Some Americans live in low-density areas that no water authorities serve.

Yet residents in urban areas fare just as poorly. Lead and other contaminants taint the drinking water in many cities, where decades of neglect rendered aging systems vulnerable to breaks and security breaches.

The American Society of Civil Engineers recently gave the nation's water systems a C- grade, noting the combined 2.2 million miles of pipes are so old that they average a leak every two minutes and waste about 6 billion gallons of treated water every day. Without adequate funding, water authorities struggle to maintain their existing lines, let alone extend service to new customers.

"We're just replacing what they have because they're losing so much water," explained USW Local 14614 President Ron Brady, whose membership



Domenic DeDomenico and Simon Hale



Local 12160 Volunteers

— continued on page 10 —



MESSAGE FROM PITTSBURGH



Thomas M. Conway, International President

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America's Thirst

includes hundreds of construction workers in West Virginia. Brady has seen communities' water supplies vanish when landslides knocked out precariously positioned pipes. He's witnessed water lines so old they're made of wood and function like barrel-shaped sluices.

And he knows residents whose well water stains their bathtubs and clothes and who yearn for public water partly so they can get the more affordable insurance that comes from having fire hydrants nearby.



Local 14614 President Ron Brady

There's no reason to tolerate any of this.

The Senate recently passed a bipartisan bill earmarking \$35 billion for water system improvements. But that's just a small fraction of what's needed.

Congressional approval of Biden's American Jobs Plan would provide the comprehensive funding necessary for top-to-bottom water infrastructure upgrades. That includes removing all lead-tainted pipes, replacing leaky mains, upgrading treatment plants and extending service to areas currently without it.

Upgrading water infrastructure would make Americans healthier while delivering a major boost to the economy.

Biden's plan would provide family-sustaining jobs to construction workers, including Brady's members, and ensure work for Americans who produce steel, aluminum, valves, pipes and other materials needed to construct and operate water systems. Modernization would prevent the water disruptions and quality problems that imperil billions in economic activity—at restaurants, hotels, factories and other businesses—every year.

And Biden's plan would promote a more equitable distribution of America's resources. Right now, the lack of access to safe water disproportionately affects the poor, the disabled and elderly Americans like Simon Hale, who broke both ankles in Vietnam, and his wife, who uses a wheelchair.

Using equipment provided by the water authority, DeDomenico and his co-workers needed only several hours to hook up the couple's water and drastically improve their quality of life. The crew even reseeded the Hales' lawn, removing all traces of construction work, before leaving.

"It was a pleasure, obviously," DeDomenico said of meeting Simon Hale. "He served our country."

*

Local 4950 Continues Supporting their Health Care Members - submitted by Chris Haddock

On Wednesday, May 26, USW Local 4950 continued its commitment of ongoing support to the members they represent in the health care sector by delivering and serving them lunch.

Earlier in the pandemic, the local had lunch delivered from area restaurants in a plan to support not only its members, but the surrounding communities as well.

The United Steelworkers represent over 50,000 workers in the health care sector nationwide; and, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, represent workers at Copper Country Mental Health in Houghton, USW Local 7798; Bell Hospital in Ishpeming, USW Local 8293; Bell Physicians Practices in Ishpeming, USW Local 4950; Teal Lake Senior Living Community in Negaunee, USW Local 4950; and Eastwood Nursing Center in Negaunee, USW Local 4950.

Pictured below is President Chad Korpi serving lunch to Unit Chairperson Peggy Kangas. Also pictured are Vice President Dan Ruokolainen, Recording Secretary Rich Helgren, and retiree volunteers John and Beverly Korpi at Teal Lake Senior Living Community.





For Immediate Release:
May 17, 2021

Contact: Jess Kamm Broomell,
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USW: US-EU Talks Must Strengthen Domestic Steel and Aluminum Production and Employment

(Pittsburgh) – *United Steelworkers (USW) International President Tom Conway released the following statement after the United States and the European announced discussions about bilateral trade issues:*

“It’s no secret that the U.S. steel and aluminum sectors have been victimized by foreign unfair trade practices and global overcapacity. While China is the principal driver of the problems facing producers here in the United States, others also contributed to this injury.

“As the United States and European Union engage in bilateral consultations, we are supportive of efforts to resolve the threats to our producers and our members.

“However, we cannot support any approaches that do not provide measurable positive results. The EU is an important ally, but in the past, it has been part of the problem, not part of the solution.

“We have more than 40 unfair trade relief measures in place against EU steel and aluminum products that resulted from their dumping and subsidies targeted at our market. The USW supported addressing global overcapacity through the OECD and in the Global Steel Forum, but the EU did little to advance those talks.

“Bilateral discussions provide the opportunity to resolve the challenges in these sectors and align U.S. and EU actions on trade.

“The Biden administration consulted closely with the USW as they evaluated existing trade approaches and assessed long-term solutions, and we will be a willing and engaged partner moving forward.

“Steel and aluminum are crucial products for our national and economic security and our critical infrastructure. We are hopeful about reaching a solution, but we are equally determined to avoid any approaches that undermine the strength of our industry and the opportunities provided to U.S. workers.”

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.

###

This Day in Labor History • May 1, 1926 • Ford Factory Workers get 40-Hour Week - History.com

On May 1, 1926, Ford Motor Company becomes one of the first companies in America to adopt a five-day, 40-hour week for workers in its automotive factories. The policy would be extended to Ford’s office workers the following August.

Henry Ford’s Detroit-based automobile company had broken ground in its labor policies before. In early 1914, against a backdrop of widespread unemployment and increasing labor unrest, Ford announced that it would pay its male factory workers a minimum wage of \$5 per eight-hour day, upped from a previous rate of \$2.34 for nine hours (the policy was adopted for female workers in 1916). The news shocked many in the industry—at the time, \$5 per day was nearly double what the average auto worker made—but turned out to be a stroke of brilliance, immediately boosting productivity along the assembly line and building a sense of company loyalty and pride among Ford’s workers.

The decision to reduce the workweek from six to five days had originally been made in 1922. According to an article published in *The New York Times* that March, Edsel Ford, Henry’s son and the company’s president, explained that “Every man needs more than one day a week for rest and recreation...The Ford Company always has sought to promote [an] ideal home life for its employees. We believe that in order to live properly every man should have more time to spend with his family.”

Henry Ford said of the decision: “It is high time to rid ourselves of the notion that leisure for workmen is either ‘lost time’ or a class privilege.” At Ford’s own admission, however, the five-day workweek was also instituted in order to increase productivity: Though workers’ time on the job had decreased, they were expected to expend more effort while they were there. Manufacturers all over the country, and the world, soon followed Ford’s lead, and the Monday-to-Friday workweek became standard practice.

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