



MICHAEL H. BOLTON, DIRECTOR

# UNITED STEELWORKERS USW UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS DISTRICT 2

# NEWS

JUNE 2021 • VOLUME 11, ISSUE 6 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	doncarlson@pca.net
Robert Desmond	12182	Amalgamated	renbade@aol.com
Jesse Edwards	2-232	Automotive Related	Jesse_edw@rc211910@yahoo.com
Kent Holzing	12975	Chemical & Energy Related	kentholzing@gmail.com
Jackie Anklam	9899	Health Care	jackieanklam_usawca@9899@yahoo.com
Michael Orvosk	12934	Public	m.orvosk@usawoca12934.com
Eric Hennrich	1327	At Large	Eric.hennrich@allstateok.com
Matthew Gibbons	3965	At Large	usw3965@gmail.com
Jim Whit	2-145	Allied Industrial	whitjim@yahoo.com

### USW District 2 NEWS

is published by the  
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 Gutekunst; Tammy Duncan; Jay McMurrain;  
Scott Paul; Alliance for American Manufacturing President;  
Thomas Conway, USW International President;  
USW New Media; AFL-CIO; History.com

Articles and photos are welcome  
and should be sent to

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

**JULY 23, 2021**, is the deadline for  
submissions for the next issue.

## A Message from Michael Bolton



The paths of the labor and civil rights movements have been interwoven for years. As Union activists, we are dedicated to working to ensure all Steelworkers are treated with dignity and respect in the workplace and beyond. The missions of both movements are basically the same. In fact, it should come as no surprise that on April 4, 1968, the day of his assassination, Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. was in Memphis to address a group of striking sanitation workers.

A lot of progress has been made in the struggle for equality. However, as the events of the past two years have demonstrated, we still have a long way to go when it comes to race relations. This month, we have two classic examples of the civil rights struggle. The first is a cause for celebration, the second is a return to the days of Jim Crowe.

On June 16, Congress took action to recognize June 19th as the country's 12th national holiday. Referred to as Juneteenth, the date marks the official end of slavery in America. It is the day that, two years after the end of the Civil War, slaves in Texas learned of their emancipation. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the bill by a 415 to 14 vote. All 14 votes against the legislation were cast by Republicans, including Tom Tiffany of Wisconsin who argued the new holiday created two independence days in America based on skin color. The bill was sent to the Senate where it was passed by unanimous consent. It was quickly signed into law by President Joe Biden and the first Juneteenth Holiday was celebrated days later.

On the same day, June 16, 2021, civil rights in Michigan took a step backward as the state legislature passed three voter suppression bills. The acts are part of a 39 bill package Republicans are advancing to reduce minority participation in the voting process. Bills approved during the June 16 session create strict voter identification requirements for in person voting, mail-in balloting and voter registration. While the legislation will surely be vetoed by Democrat Governor Gretchen Whitmer, it will not deter Republicans. A fluke in Michigan law provides the GOP with a loophole to circumvent the Governor's veto. All they have to do is gather 340,000 signatures on petitions to place the issue on the next ballot. After gaining the signatures, legislators can enact the law which cannot be vetoed.

Sadly, Michigan is not the only state moving

to suppress voters. Legislatures in 47 states have introduced over 800 bills to make voting more difficult. Five of those states have already seen restrictive voting measures signed into law, making it harder to register to vote, reducing time and access for mail-in voting, creating strict ID requirements, and even making it illegal for poll workers to give a bottle of water to voters waiting in long lines to cast their ballot.

Why are we seeing this rush to pass the most restrictive voting laws since the Jim Crowe days? Republicans are stepping up to address a problem that never existed because of lies promulgated by former President Donald Trump. After losing the November election by over 7 million votes, Trump went on a campaign to convince anyone that would listen that he won and the election was stolen from him, claiming it was stolen by Democrats and minorities who took votes away from Trump and cast ballots for dead people. They continue to spout lies despite the fact that Trump's handpicked Attorney General, Robert Barr, stated there was no evidence of voter fraud. Additionally, federal courts, many with Trump selected judges, rejected countless lawsuits by the Trump campaign alleging voting improprieties.

The fact is all voters took advantage of expanded mail-in balloting brought on by the covid-19 virus and cast ballots in near record numbers last November. It would be safe to say this really helped to make a difference in the election. Recognizing their positions on minority issues were not going to win them many votes, Republicans are aiming for the next best method to recapture Congress and the Presidency - by reducing the number of voters participating in our elections. As a Union, we cannot stand by and watch Republicans deny Americans the right to vote for any reason.

Our Union has a rich history of negotiating some of the finest labor agreements in America. It's done, in a vast majority of cases, without the need of a work stoppage. But there are times when rogue employers challenge our members with ridiculous demands for give backs. There are also those who lockout Steelworkers in an attempt to force their wills on our members. When that happens, we never shrink before the challenge. Our members come together in solidarity and fight for a fair contract. Steelworkers are willing to fight one day longer to gain dignity and respect in the workplace.

To honor Steelworkers locked in labor struggles/lockouts with their employers, the USW has posted an article on its website allowing you to take action to support our striking brothers and sisters in the United States and Canada.

— continued on page 2 —

## "GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

## Did you know?

### RIGHT TO **WHAT?**

### RIGHT TO WORK IS WRONG FOR AMERICA

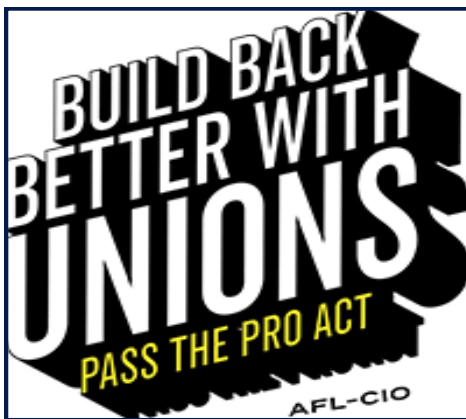
## Standing Up For Workers' Rights

Anti-union laws like so-called "right to work", paycheck deception and comp time do nothing more than give corporations the ability to increase CEO profits by stripping workers of their rights to come together and speak out for better wages and safer workplaces.

These laws not only have a direct impact on union members, they create downward pressure on all working people's wages and benefits.

**THEY'RE NOT JUST ANTI-UNION,  
THEY'RE ANTI-WORKER!**

From on-the-ground training, to lobbying our lawmakers, to online activism, our union is fighting back against these bills.



**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

**USW 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](http://www.facebook.com/USWDistrict2)

## A Message from Director Bolton - continued from page 1

The lengths of the work stoppages vary from 3 weeks to 18 months and affect 35 to 2,500 Steelworkers. The battles and the actions you can assist in are:

- June 1 - some 2,500 members of USW Local 6500 at Vale Mining in Sudbury, Ontario, voted to strike the company after rejecting Vale's final contract proposal. At the heart of the dispute is a management plan to end health insurance coverage for future Vale retirees. The act to be taken was a call to attend a June 15 rally at Local 6500's Union Hall. Future actions will be held to support Steelworkers north of the border. Keep an eye on the USW website to find out what you can do.
- May 1 - 250 Steelworkers at Local 13-243 were locked out of their jobs at Exxon-Mobil in Beaumont, Texas. The company took the lockout action in an attempt to force workers to accept major changes in job security, workplace safety and health, and seniority rights language. Visitors to the site are asked to sign a "Solidarity Pledge" for their brothers and sisters in Texas.
- In Toronto, Ontario, 35 members of Local 8300-41 began a legal strike against their employer, Rexplas, a bottle packaging company. The company's last offer was rejected on April 26. On the site, you are asked to send a prewritten letter to Rexplas management urging them to return to the bargaining table to bargain in good faith.
- February 12 - 60 members of Local 7949 were locked out by their employer, Fenner-Dunlop. Management at the Bracebridge, Ontario, facility resorted to the lockout after Steelworkers rejected the company's final offer which included major cuts in sick pay, shift premiums and income security. Like the Rexplas' action, you are asked to send a letter to Fenner-Dunlop executives telling them to get back to the table to bargain a fair agreement with their employees.
- October 13, 2019 - 1,700 copper worker members from Locals 886, 915, 937-02, 5252 and 5613 launched an unfair labor practice strike against their employer, Asarco of Texas and Arizona. Asarco is a subsidiary of GRUPO Mexico, a multi-national company with a long history of violating labor rights in Mexico and in the U.S. Workers at Asarco have not seen a wage increase in 10 years; yet, management continues to demand steep concessions in job security and employee health care. On the website, you will be asked to sign a "Solidarity Pledge" with our brothers and sisters in the southwest.

Finally, this month we have two really good examples of why it is so important to have a Union-friendly president in the White House. The first is a major victory for "Buy American" laws that boost U.S. manufacturing. It comes in the form of "executive guidance" that will streamline the waiver process and make it more transparent. It will also expand the program to more government agencies. Buy American laws require all federal construction and improvement projects funded by taxpayer dollars to buy American made products and services to complete those projects. Waivers can be secured for products not made in the U.S. or those with prohibitive prices. The requirements were loosened under the previous administration, which weakened existing Buy American efforts and allowed more companies to opt out. The new guidance strengthens the law and will result in greater demand for American made goods.

Our second victory is an Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Published earlier this month, the new ETS extends protections to over 50,000 Steelworkers employed in the healthcare sector. It is designed to extend regulation to health care employers to help prevent the spread of covid-19 and the new Delta variant. It requires employers to provide workers with needed personal protection equipment, defines ways to maintain safe social distancing and establishes protocols for working with covid-infected patients. USW healthcare safety advocates had been lobbying for the standards for months. Of course, our cause was helped by having a former Steelworker safety and health official appointed to the OSHA staff earlier this year.

We still have plenty of work ahead of us. We have to stand together in solidarity to make sure our voices are heard in Washington and in our state legislatures. One easy way this can be done is by participating in Rapid Response Actions. Steelworkers have a reputation to stand up and not back down. Now is the time to continue this reputation.

**Now is the time to go build the Union!**

**"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, 2021. Classes held via Zoom.*

### 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 |

- 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 |

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.

### JULY

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

### AUGUST

- District 2 Virtual New Officer Training**  
*10:00 am - 1:00 pm EST (9:00 am - 12:00 noon CST) OR  
 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm EST (5:00 pm - 8:00 pm CST)  
 Zoom link provided when registration is received.*
- District 2 Financial Training (WI)**  
*Red Lion Hotel - Paper Valley • 333 W College Avenue, Appleton, WI*
- District 2 Financial Training (MI)**  
*Comfort Inn & Village Conference Center • 1645 Commerce Park Drive, Chelsea, MI*

### SEPTEMBER

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



## UNIONS BEGIN WITH YOU!

When working people come together, they make things better for everyone. Joining together in unions enables workers to negotiate for higher wages and benefits and improve conditions in the workplace. There are millions of union members in America from all walks of life. These individuals know that by speaking up together, you can accomplish more than you could on your own.

### 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 to properly wear masks that fully cover your nose and mouth.

We appreciate your patience as we work through this pandemic.



**For Immediate Release:**  
 June 8, 2021  
**Contact:** Jess Kamm Broomell  
 412-562-2444, jkamm@usw.org

## USW Welcomes Results of Critical Supply Chain Reviews

(Pittsburgh) – *United Steelworkers (USW) International President Tom Conway issued the following statement today after the Biden administration issued its report on supply chain reviews called for in President Joe Biden’s “America’s Supply Chains” executive order:*

“The USW commends the Biden administration for directly tackling the problem of our nation’s long-neglected supply chains and identifying concrete steps to shore up crucial vulnerabilities.

“Our union engaged in multiple stakeholder meetings with the administration after the president issued his executive order in February calling for 100-day reviews into key industrial supply chains.

“From employing the Defense Production Act to ensure we have ready access to active pharmaceutical ingredients, to supporting and financing advanced battery production, to identifying sites to domestically source critical minerals, the administration’s final report makes common-sense recommendations that will not only strengthen our national security but protect and create good jobs.

“Enhancing and enforcing domestic procurement policies and strengthening international trade rules will further ensure workers and their communities will be the direct beneficiaries of these investments.

“USW members know better than anyone that American workers are well-positioned and ready to take on this work. They have the skills and dedication needed to regrow capacity throughout our supply chains.

“We look forward to working with the administration to enact these recommendations and make our nation more resilient and secure.”

*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.*

###

### 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.

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

## The Jobs America Needs - *By Tom Conway, USW International President • June 10, 2021*

Keith Aubrey's construction job forced him to work long stretches without a day off, even in rain and lightning, all for a measly paycheck and health benefits so lousy he could barely afford to see a doctor.

After getting laid off during the pandemic last year, Aubrey resolved to seize control of his destiny and landed a union manufacturing position that changed his life.

COVID-19 showed Americans that it's no longer enough to scrape by on jobs that just barely pay the household bills. They need family-sustaining wages that will cover child care costs, health care providing high-quality coverage in emergencies and other essential benefits that unions routinely deliver for their members.

As the nation emerges from the pandemic, more and more workers find themselves at the same turning point that Aubrey did. They're fed up with callous, exploitative employers who recklessly exposed them to a deadly virus, denied them the flexibility they needed to care for ill loved ones and laid them off at the drop of a hat. Now, they're pursuing jobs with the union difference.

After just a few months at Century Aluminum in Hawesville, KY., where he's represented by United Steelworkers (USW) Local 9423, Aubrey glimpses the union's impact on "overtime, safety, the whole nine yards." "Benefits were a big thing for me," said Aubrey, whose previous bosses went the "cheapest route" on medical insurance, saddled him with skyrocketing rates and failed to take adequate COVID-19 safeguards.

Now, in addition to quality health care, the union makes sure he has paid sick leave, safety programs addressing workplace hazards, and COVID-19 protections.

Among the many other benefits his union representation affords, Aubrey especially appreciates the new balance in his life. The USW contract prohibits burdensome overtime, whereas Aubrey's construction job forced him to work 12 hours a day, seven days a week. "You can work anytime you like, but they can't take your life away from you," he said of his role at Century.

Even before COVID-19, polling showed that tens of millions of workers desired union jobs not only for the higher wages and better benefits but because of labor's fight against harassment, favoritism and discrimination.

"These are sought-after jobs," said Andy Meserve, president of Local 9423, noting the union continually fights to preserve good wages and benefits at Century. "People want these jobs because of the union. They know the union makes them good."

All 400 or so hourly workers at the facility chose to join the USW, he noted, even though Kentucky is one of 27 states with labor-busting laws that require unions to represent workers even if they refuse to become members.

Against the backdrop of growing support for organized labor, the pandemic prompted a profound shift in Americans' thinking about what employers owe them in exchange for their labor and highlighted the role of unions in leveling the playing field.

Gallup last year estimated that 65 percent of Americans—the highest since 2003—approved of unions. Support soared as the labor movement successfully fought for personal protective equipment (PPE), social distancing, quarantine pay and even job security for members. When the recession hit, many corporations slashed employment. But union workers had input into how their employers reacted to the pandemic and used that leverage to save countless jobs.

Stefanie Calderone was well aware of the stability that unions provide in a crisis. That's why she gave up her salaried lab supervisor position at BP-Husky's Toledo refinery and took a USW-represented job in the same lab instead.

She knows the union provides more security than her salaried position, given the pandemic and the corporation's global downsizing campaign.

"I wasn't really sure I would have a job at all, and even if I did, it might be a job I didn't know anything about or a job in another location," explained Calderone, a member of USW Local 346. "I switched for the protection and the pay. It doubled my pay. It's life-changing."

Some workers successfully conducted unionization campaigns right in the middle of the pandemic to protect themselves and others. Last fall, nurses at Mission Hospital in Asheville, N.C., overwhelmingly voted to unionize amid exhausting caseloads and inadequate COVID-19 protections. Earlier this spring, workers at Imperfect Foods, a California food delivery service, elected to form a union to address unpredictable schedules, growing workloads and other concerns exacerbated by the pandemic.

And teachers at several California charter school networks and the Latin School of Chicago voted to organize in recent months, saying the pandemic showed them the need to work collaboratively for each other, their students and their communities.

Because of COVID-19 safety lapses, among other concerns, workers at Amazon and other companies also mounted unionizing campaigns that remain up in the air because the employers' brutal union-busting campaigns tainted the election results.

As the nation recovers from the pandemic, Congress has a historic opportunity to help the growing number of workers get the quality union jobs they want.

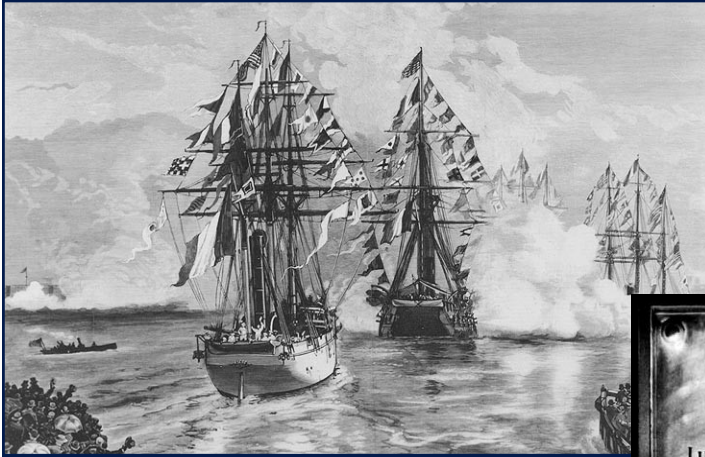
The House already passed the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act to make it easier to form unions and punish employers for interfering. The Senate now needs to pass this bill, which would help to protect workers in the next crisis and provide more Americans with the secure futures that Aubrey and Calderone enjoy.

"To be very frank, it's one of the greatest decisions I'll ever make," Calderone, now a steward and the vice chair of her unit, said of joining the USW. "I'm very grateful to be where I am right now."

**"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"**

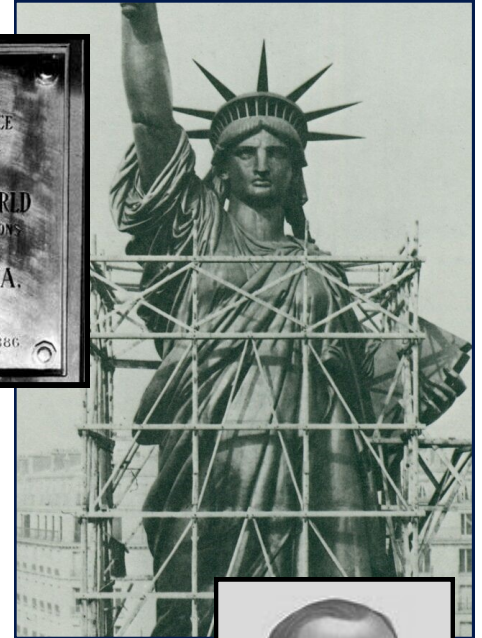


**This Month in History - June 1885 • Statue of Liberty Arrives in New York Harbor - *History.com***

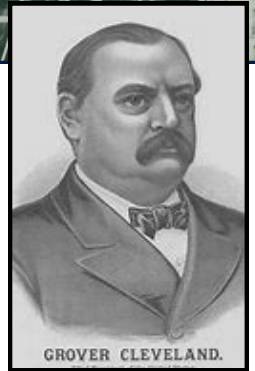


On June 17, 1885, the dismantled Statue of Liberty, a gift of friendship from the people of France to the people of America, arrives in New York Harbor after being shipped across the Atlantic Ocean in 350 individual pieces packed in more than 200 cases. The copper and iron statue, which was reassembled and dedicated the following year in a ceremony presided over by U.S. President Grover Cleveland, became known around the world as an enduring symbol of freedom and democracy.

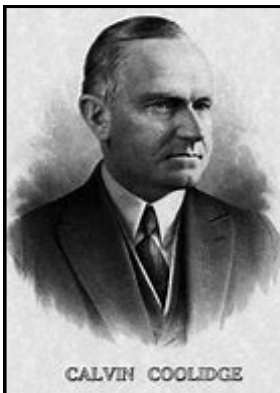
Intended to commemorate the American Revolution and a century of friendship between the U.S. and France, the statue was designed by French sculptor Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi (who modeled it after his own mother), with assistance from engineer Gustave Eiffel, who later developed the iconic tower in Paris bearing his name. The statue was initially scheduled to be finished by 1876, the 100th anniversary of America's Declaration of Independence; however, fundraising efforts, which included auctions, a lottery and boxing matches, took longer than anticipated, both in Europe and the U.S., where the statue's pedestal was to be financed and constructed. The statue alone cost the French an estimated \$250,000 (more than \$5.5 million in today's money).



Finally completed in Paris in the summer of 1884, the statue, a robed female figure with an uplifted arm holding a torch, reached its new home on Bedloe's Island in New York Harbor on June 17, 1885. After being reassembled, the 450,000-pound statue was officially dedicated on October 28, 1886, by President Cleveland (far-right photo), who said, "We will not forget that Liberty has here made her home; nor shall her chosen altar be neglected." Standing more than 305 feet from the foundation of its pedestal to the top of its torch, the statue, dubbed "Liberty Enlightening the World" by Bartholdi, was taller than any structure in New York City at the time. The statue was originally copper-colored, but over the years it underwent a natural color-change process called patination that produced its current greenish-blue hue.

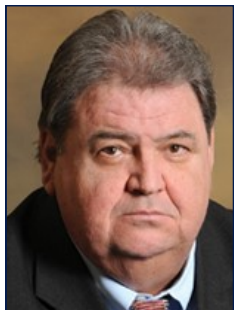


In 1892, Ellis Island, located near Bedloe's Island (which in 1956 was renamed Liberty Island), opened as America's chief immigration station, and for the next 62 years Lady Liberty, as the statue is nicknamed, stood watch over the more than 12 million immigrants who sailed into New York Harbor. In 1903, a plaque inscribed with a sonnet titled "The New Colossus" by American poet Emma Lazarus, written 20 years earlier for a pedestal fundraiser, was placed on an interior wall of the pedestal. Lazarus' now-famous words, which include "Give me your tired, your poor/Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free," became symbolic of America's vision of itself as a land of opportunity for immigrants.



Some 60 years after President Calvin Coolidge (bottom left photo) designated the statue a national monument in 1924, it underwent a multi-million-dollar restoration (which included a new torch and gold leaf-covered flame) and was rededicated by President Ronald Reagan on July 4, 1986, in a lavish celebration. Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the statue was closed; its base, pedestal and observation deck re-opened in 2004, while its crown re-opened to the public on July 4, 2009. (For safety reasons, the torch has been closed to visitors since 1916, after an incident called the Black Tom explosions in which munitions-laden barges and railroad cars on the Jersey City, New Jersey, waterfront were blown up by German agents, causing damage to the nearby statue.)

Today, the Statue of Liberty is one of America's most famous landmarks. Over the years, it has been the site of political rallies and protests (from suffragettes to anti-war activists), has been featured in numerous movies and countless photographs, and has received millions of visitors from around the globe.



## MESSAGE FROM PITTSBURGH



*Thomas M. Conway, International President*

Posted: June 17, 2021 • page 1 of 2

### Investing in American Prosperity

Eager to capitalize on opportunities in the dynamic renewable energy field, the manufacturing company Rotek secured incentives, hired additional workers and successfully launched production of the huge metal rings that keep wind turbines spinning.

But the boom quickly faded. The Aurora, Ohio, plant struggled to compete with unfairly traded, foreign-made products and ended up eliminating many of the jobs it created just a couple of years before.

Ensuring future prosperity will require not only stimulating a manufacturing resurgence but also stabilizing long-term markets for domestically produced goods and raw materials.

Fortunately, President Joe Biden's American Jobs Plan provides an unprecedented opportunity to do exactly that.

The plan calls for historic investments in American infrastructure, including roads and bridges, schools and airports, locks and dams, water-treatment systems, communications networks, the electric grid and renewable energy projects, like the wind farms that workers at Rotek strived to supply.

These upgrades would modernize the country and strengthen it for the next crisis while putting millions to work. Biden intends to create and sustain manufacturing jobs by ensuring the nation uses American steel, aluminum, glass, rubber and other raw products—as well as domestically produced components like bearings, pipes, cement and electronics—in infrastructure projects and other initiatives that use taxpayer money.

Last week, he issued new guidance requiring dozens of federal agencies to work with the administration's new Made in America Office to increase their purchases of U.S. supplies and reduce the occasions when they seek waivers allowing them to procure items outside of the country. The guidance covers the Transportation and Energy departments as well as other Cabinet-level agencies that will play pivotal roles in infrastructure investment.

"It will help us and everybody else tremendously," said Marcus Graves Jr., president of United Steelworkers (USW) Local 8565, recalling the devastation he and other workers at Rotek felt when energy companies began buying cheap, low-quality turbine rings overseas.

American workers like Graves possess the expertise, grit and dedication necessary to build the nation's future.

The USW launched its "We Supply America" campaign to highlight the products that highly skilled union members already make for infrastructure projects and underscore the importance of undertaking publicly funded improvements with U.S. labor, materials and products.

A recent Reuters-Ipsos poll found that 63 percent of Americans want taxpayer dollars to be spent on goods manufactured here because of the high quality, economic benefits and other advantages.

And so it's no surprise that numerous states, from Republican-dominated Texas to Democrat-controlled New Jersey, are pursuing legislation aimed at buying more American goods and materials for their own construction projects.

Workers in long-term manufacturing jobs will buy homes, cars and other consumer goods, all of which further boost the economy, and the solid tax base they provide will enable communities across the country to thrive.

Members of USW Local 675 and electric bus maker Proterra, for example, are striving not only to build Los Angeles' clean vehicle industry but also create more vibrant communities and provide new opportunities to local residents.

In December, the union and company partnered with Jobs to Move America on a historic community benefits agreement that will spur the training and hiring of veterans, people of color and other workers facing barriers to employment. The program opens a path to good-paying, long-term employment just as the American Jobs Plan's incentives for electric vehicle production promise to further drive the industry's growth.

In addition to the economic benefits, strong, sustainable markets for U.S.- made goods will help to keep America safe.

Shortages of face masks and other goods during the COVID-19 pandemic laid bare the urgent need to ramp up manufacturing and build out supply chains so the nation can produce items it needs for emergencies as well as everyday life.







## MESSAGE FROM PITTSBURGH



*Thomas M. Conway, International President*

Posted: June 17, 2021 • page 2 of 2 - continued from page 7

### Investing in American Prosperity

Members of USW Local 5702 understood the dangers of the nation's withered manufacturing capacity long before the health crisis struck—and they fought hard to preserve a critical piece of the industrial base.

They operate Noranda Alumina in Gramercy, La., the last remaining alumina refinery in the country. Their advocacy and hard work kept the facility operating over the years despite slowdowns, layoffs, industry consolidation, unfair trade and other challenges that threatened the refinery's survival.

"America is relying on us to keep it going," said Local 5702 President Montrell Steib, noting alumina has widespread uses in the automotive, electronics, food and medical industries while also playing an essential role in the production of adhesives, paints and fire retardants.

If the refinery closed, he said, the nation would depend on foreign supplies of this critical material. That would put America's security at risk because other countries can encounter their own production problems or cut off supplies for economic or political reasons.

Now, a national infrastructure program has the potential to create vast new markets for alumina and give refinery workers the security they long sought.

That's why Steib and the facility's owner wrote a joint letter to the Biden administration that highlighted both the urgency of infrastructure upgrades and the need to boost American manufacturing.

"It's a big thing for me," said Steib, recalling the uncertainty he felt several years ago when a previous owner put the refinery up for sale. During the many months the facility's future hung in the balance, he often thought, "this might really be it."

While Graves likewise believes the American Jobs Plan will boost Rotek's business, it's just as important to him that the entire nation learn from the mistakes of the past and commit to building stable, diversified markets for U.S. goods.

"Branch out," he urged. "Build new supply chains. Buy American."



Montrell Steib

#### This Day in History • June 19, 1865 • Abolition of slavery announced in Texas on "Juneteenth" - [History.com](http://History.com)

In what is now known as Juneteenth, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers arrive in Galveston, Texas with news that the Civil War is over and slavery in the United States is abolished.

A mix of June and 19th, Juneteenth has become a day to commemorate the end of slavery in America. Despite the fact that President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation was issued more than two years earlier on January 1, 1863, a lack of Union troops in the rebel state of Texas made the order difficult to enforce.

Some historians blame the lapse in time on poor communication in that era, while others believe Texan slave-owners purposely withheld the information.

Upon arrival and leading the Union soldiers, Major Gen. Gordon Granger announced General Order No. 3: "The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor. The freedmen are advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere."

On that day, 250,000 enslaved people were freed, and despite the message to stay and work for their owners, many left the state immediately and headed north or to nearby states in search of family members who had been taken to other regions during slavery.

For many African Americans, June 19 is considered an Independence day. Before 2021, nearly all 50 states recognized Juneteenth as a state holiday. On June 17, 2021, President Biden signed legislation officially declaring it a federal holiday.



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

**For Immediate Release:**  
June 10, 2021

**Contact:** Chelsey Engel  
412-212-8173, cengel@usw.org

### **USW: OSHA's new emergency temporary standard a huge step for worker safety**

(PITTSBURGH)—*The United Steelworkers (USW) union released the following statement after the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) today issued its Covid-19 emergency temporary standard (ETS) for health care workers:*

"The USW is glad that, after more than a year of advocacy and organizing, health care workers will finally have enforceable workplace protections against the spread of Covid-19 thanks to OSHA's new emergency temporary standard announced today.

"Health care workers, including 50,000 USW members, made deep, personal sacrifices every day of the pandemic caring for the sick and vulnerable. They deserve to know they will be as safe as possible while doing this vital work.

"Yet far too many health care workers have been sickened or died because their employers did not follow coronavirus protocols. This new temporary standard for Covid-19 is a huge step forward.

"There is still much work ahead in the fight to keep workers safe on the job, including extending these protections to all workers and making them permanent. The updated guidance for other industries OSHA also issued today provides a base on which to build, but we must keep up the momentum.

"Our nation's essential workers kept America running through one of our darkest times. We applaud President Biden's leadership on this issue and commend OSHA for finally taking real action to keep them safe."

*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.*

###

### **How Section 232 Saved America's Steel Industry - By Scott Paul, President, ALLIANCE FOR AMERICAN MANUFACTURING**

Just a few years ago, America's steel industry was at the brink. Thousands of steelworkers were laid off. Dozens of plants closed their doors. The entire industry, which is so vital to our national and economic security, was in danger.

But "Section 232" trade action began to level the playing field for U.S. steelworkers and companies.

More than 3,200 new jobs have been created since tariffs on steel imports went into effect in 2018. Meanwhile, steel companies have announced \$15.7 billion in direct steel facility investments and an additional \$5.9 billion in plant acquisitions.

We just launched a major campaign to tell the story of how Section 232 saved America's steel industry – and explain why it must remain in place – because the policy is under attack from importers and foreign countries.

Now that the American steel industry has begun a slow recovery, importers and others have called on the Biden administration to lift Section 232. But this would be a big mistake.

While trade action stopped the surge of unfairly traded steel imports, global steel overcapacity and trade cheating remain unresolved. Until there is a clear and enforceable global solution to the ongoing steel imports crisis, Section 232 remains vital.

As we highlight on the website, American-made steel is essential not only to our national security, but to building critical infrastructure as well. We also need to maintain a strong domestic steel industry to address climate change and grow the middle class.

[Be sure to find all the facts and stories behind America's strong steelworkers!](#)

And while I have your attention, [please add YOUR voice and tell the Biden administration to keep Section 232 trade action in place.](#)



**"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"**

**FREE for UNION MEMBERS:** *Now Enrolling for Summer Classes starting August 16, 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!"**