



MICHAEL H. BOLTON, DIRECTOR

UNITED STEELWORKERS USW UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS DISTRICT 2

NEWS

JULY 2020 • VOLUME 10, ISSUE 7, 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 | LUF# | Sector | Email Address |
|-----------------|-------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ron Fencal | 1299 | Steel and Related | rfencal@yahoo.com |
| Don Carlson | 58 | Paper | dcarlson@2u.net |
| Robert Desmond | 13702 | Amalgamated | rdesmond@aol.com |
| Jesse Edwards | 2-332 | Automotive Related | Jesse.edwards1010@yahoo.com |
| Kent Holzing | 12675 | Chemical & Energy Related | kentholzing@aol.com |
| Jackie Ankum | 9899 | Health Care | jackieankum_usw@aol.com |
| Michael Orvosk | 12834 | Public | m.orvosk@uswlocal2.org |
| Eric Hennrichs | 13227 | At Large | Eric.hennrichs@aiausa.com |
| Matthew Gibbons | 2963 | At Large | usw5955@gmail.com |
| Jim Whit | 2-145 | Allied Industrial | whitjim@yahoo.com |



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 Gulekunt, Tammy Duncan, Jay McMullan,
Jason Wilcox, Gerry Kell, USW New Media,
AFL-CIO, CDC.gov, The History Channel.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
d2@usw.org • (920) 722-7630

August 24, 2020, is the deadline for
submissions for the next issue.

A Message from Michael Bolton



As Union activists, one of the most important challenges we face this fall is electing candidates who will work with us to pass legislation to modernize the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) of 1935, the bill that Franklin Roosevelt championed to give workers the right to join a Union and that required employers to bargain in good faith with their employees' Union. Prior to the Act, workers had to fight to form a Union, which sometimes cost them their lives. Unfortunately, during the 85 years that the NLRA has been on the books, Congress has not acted to bring its rules and regulations into the current century. In fact, the only changes made occurred through court and board decisions that have turned the law into little more than another tool in the Union buster toolbox.

During our Union's current "Your Union - Your Voice" membership outreach program, Steelworkers were asked to identify their top issues in the November Presidential election. I am proud to say that you named Union Rights as your #3 issue this fall, meaning you recognize the importance of having a strong, free labor movement in America. For those asking why this is such a big deal, I can sum up the importance in two words - UNION DENSITY! It should come as no surprise that workers in industries with the highest Union density are ones that set the standard for wages and benefits in the United States. Workers in steel, rubber, paper, oil and chemical sectors have seen Union membership close to 100% for years. Because nearly everyone in that sector was organized, the boss couldn't whipsaw workers against one another to lower wages and benefits.

However, as the levels of our representation in a particular industry have gone down, the courage of employers has gone up and we are faced with the difficult task of maintaining our hard won gains. In short, Union density means that when the Union does better, we do better. With that in mind, I have chosen Union rights as the subject for my first presidential candidate comparison. While Joe Biden took the time to answer our USW Candidate Questionnaire, the President did not. We will use the actions he has taken during the last four years as is standard. Biden's answers can be found on the "Your Union - Your Voice" page of the USW website. We will also use his nearly 40 years in the U.S. Senate to gauge his job performance on Union issues. I hope you find this useful and will share it with your Local Union brothers and sisters.

After 36 years in the Senate and 8 years as Vice President, Joe Biden has compiled a record of fighting for working class families and their Unions.

He has been a champion of Union rights and has taken the lead in attempting to pass legislation that would benefit the working class. For example, in 1994, he voted for S-55, the Striker Replacement Act. The law would have banned the use of scabs (permanent replacement workers) to break strikes. While the bill had the support of a Senate majority, Democrats could not gather the 60 votes needed to break a Republican filibuster. As a result, the bill died at the end of the term.

In 1995, Biden was on Labor's side again in a fight to stop passage of legislation called HR-743, the Teamwork for Employees and Managers Act. The Act allowed employers to establish labor/management cooperative teams to discuss matters of mutual interest. The subjects they could address included safety and health, quality and efficiency. However, because the Act excluded Union input and participation on such teams, it was feared that it would circumvent the collective bargaining process. Biden spoke against the Act, which was passed by the Republican House and Senate. He then played a crucial role convincing President Clinton to veto the act, which Republicans could not muster the votes to override.

In 2007, Unions launched an effort to pass the Employee Free Choice Act, a bill that would have, among other important changes, established a system to recognize a Union based on the NLRB's verification that a majority of workers at a facility had signed union authorization cards (a process known in the Labor Movement as "Card Check Recognition"). The Act, HR-1490, passed the House by a vote of 241 to 185. However, it died in the Senate, as the bill fell 9 votes short of the 60 needed to invoke cloture. Again, the bill was supported by the Democratic majority in that chamber but Republicans created a filibuster, stopping the attempt to bring the bill to a floor vote. Joe Biden supported the legislation and spoke in favor of it during debate of the issue.

Currently, the Labor Movement is involved in a struggle to pass the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act (HR-2474). It was passed by the U.S. House on February 6, 2020, and was sent to the Senate for consideration. To date, in the Senate, the bill was referred to the appropriate committee and has had two readings. However, the committee chair has refused to take further action, which means that at the end of this Congressional session, the bill will die and have to be reintroduced in the next Congress. If elected President, candidate Joe Biden has pledged to support the PRO Act and will work with Congress to secure its passage.

Also of note, Joe Biden has promised that his administration will immediately get to work to repeal Right to Work legislation and court decisions - which is a promise I am sure all of us will work with him to keep.

— Continued on Page 2 —

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

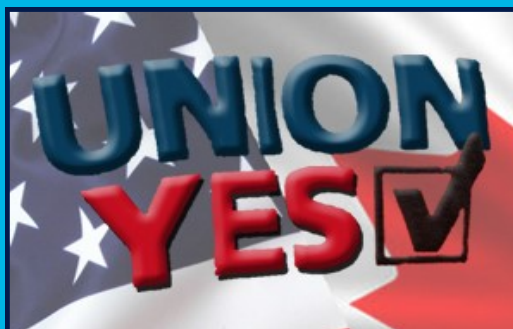
Did you know?

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 also create downward pressure on all working people's wages and benefits. **They are not just anti-union, they are 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



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

The former Vice President has appeared at numerous Union conferences and conventions and is proud to call himself a "Union Guy". He has answered the Steelworkers "Candidate Questionnaire"; and, again, you can find his positions on our issues on the "Your Union - Your Voice" page of the Steelworkers website.

To confirm his anti-Union sympathies, Trump has appointed Eugene Scalia as Labor Secretary. Eugene, the son of right wing Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, was a Union busting attorney prior to his appointment.

While Joe Biden has promised to work toward the passage of the PRO Act, Trump has pledged to veto the bill should it ever reach his desk.

Trump has reduced the number of OSHA Inspectors to its lowest level since the agency was created by Richard Nixon's signature in December of 1970.

He has repealed an Obama regulation that required employers to file detailed reports on all workplace injuries and illnesses. OSHA Inspectors told Congress they used those reports to determine which employers should be prioritized for inspection. The lack of reporting allows the boss to hide the accidents and to continue their unsafe practices.

The president directed rule changes about who qualifies for overtime pay, making more than eight million workers ineligible, resulting in over \$1 billion in lost pay.

He has failed to keep his campaign promise to challenge employers who move American jobs overseas. Instead, he has awarded over \$115 billion in federal contracts to companies that are currently offshoring jobs.

Mr. Trump also took action to make it difficult for workers to join a Union by allowing the boss to classify workers as "independent contractors". This classification denies workers the rights afforded to them by the NLRB.

He directed his government attorneys to argue in favor of the Janus case, a Supreme Court decision that created Right to Work for all public sector Unions.

The Administration changed the rules to allow employers to suspend contract negotiations at the end of the agreement to challenge a Union's majority status, meaning all the employer has to do is present a case that a bargaining unit does not have the support of a majority of the workers. Even if it did, the Union would have to bear the expense, time, and energy of conducting another Union representation election. And, the same thing could happen at the end of every subsequent agreement.

The hurt is not limited to the Unions that represent American workers. His actions have also had an impact on individual workers. For instance, the President has proposed a \$400 million cut to the Trade Readjustment Assistance (TRA) program that offers financial assistance for job training to workers who lose their jobs due to imports.

Trump also proposed a 78% budget cut for the International Labor Affairs Bureau (ILAB). The ILAB is a government agency charged with promoting a fair playing field for American workers competing in the global economy.

The president stopped rules on styrene, combustible dust, construction noise, infectious diseases, silica, and mine safety. In doing so, he has jeopardized the lives of workers and their families in those industries.

He has proposed eliminating the Chemical Safety Board and cutting safety and health research and training. Yet, again, putting workers in that industry at risk.

Yes, it is true that President Trump refused to complete the USW Candidate Questionnaire, which would have articulated his positions on Union rights issues; and, as you can see he's accumulated a pretty convincing track record. Unfortunately, the President is rarely on the side of workers that he promised to be a voice for during his 2016 campaign. To date, he has been little more than a rubber stamp for the anti-Union initiatives started by state and federal lawmakers, following the Republican wave of 2010.

This election, we have a clear choice - a candidate who has dedicated a lifetime to fighting on behalf of workers and their Unions. Or, a candidate who is hell bent on helping his corporate elitist friends gain more riches and power.

Next month, we will take a look at Trump's and Biden's positions on another issue you identified as a top priority this election - retirement security - one thing we are all working to achieve.

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"



2020 District 2 Calendar of Events

JANUARY

- 8 WOS Quarterly Meeting
USW Local 12075 Hall, 3510 James Savage Road • Midland, MI
- 9 Town Hall Meeting
USW Local 12075 Hall, 3510 James Savage Road • Midland, MI
- 16 Town Hall Meeting
USW Local 1299 Hall, 11424 West Jefferson Avenue • River Rouge, MI
- 17 WOS Quarterly Meeting
USW Dist. 2 Southern MI Sub-Office, 20600 Eureka Road, Suite 300 • Taylor, MI
- 17-19 AFL-CIO Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Civil & Human Rights Conf.
Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Ave Northwest • Washington, DC
- 21 Town Hall Meeting
Lucky Dog's Labor Temple, 157 S. Green Bay Road • Neenah, WI
- 21 WOS Quarterly Meeting
Kent Ionia Labor Hall, 918 Benjamin Avenue NE • Grand Rapids, MI
- 21 WOS Quarterly Meeting
USW Local 2-21 Hall, 1201 Sheridan Road • Escanaba, MI
- 22 Town Hall Meeting
Clarion Inn, 3640 East Cork Street • Kalamazoo, MI
- 22 WOS Quarterly Meeting
Old Morton Federal Credit Union, 516 Koscusko • Manistee, MI
- 22 WOS Quarterly Meeting
USW Local 2-148 Hall, 1201 Gillingham Road • Neenah, WI
- 23 Town Hall Meeting
Four Points by Sheraton - Milwaukee Airport, 5311 South Howell Avenue • Milwaukee, WI
- 24 WOS Quarterly Meeting
Milwaukee Labor Council Building, 633 S. Hawley Road • Milwaukee, WI
- 24 WOS Quarterly Meeting
Joann Lester Library, 100 Park Street • Nekoosa, WI

FEBRUARY

- 4 Town Hall Meeting
Eau Claire Labor Temple, 2233 Birch Street • Eau Claire, WI
- 6 Town Hall Meeting
Fraternal Order of Eagles, 1104 S. Oak Avenue • Marshfield, WI
- 11 Town Hall Meeting
Holiday Inn, 4079 US-10 • Ludington, MI
- 13 Town Hall Meeting
McRae Park Hall, 1301 N 2nd Ave. • Alpena, MI 49707
- 18 Town Hall Meeting
USW Local 4950 Hall, 1206 Baldwin Avenue • Negaunee, MI
- 25 LM Review Session
Milwaukee Labor Council Building, 633 S. Hawley Road • Milwaukee, WI
- 26 LM Review Session
Lucky Dog's Labor Temple, 157 S. Green Bay Road • Neenah, WI
- 27 LM Review Session
Kronenwetter Village Hall, 1582 Kronenwetter Drive • Kronenwetter, WI
- 28 LM Review Session
USW Local 2-21 Hall, 1201 Sheridan Road • Escanaba, MI

MARCH

- 2 LM Review Session
USW Local 12075 Hall, 3510 James Savage Road • Midland, MI
- 3 LM Review Session
Bungalow Inn, 1100 28th Street • Manistee, MI
- 4 LM Review Session
Clarion Inn, 3640 East Cork Street • Kalamazoo, MI
- 5 LM Review Session
USW District 2 Southern MI Sub-Office, 20600 Eureka Road, Suite 300 • Taylor, MI
- 10-12 USW District 2 Collective Bargaining Training
Four Points by Sheraton - Milwaukee Airport, 5311 South Howell Avenue • Milwaukee, WI
- 23-27 **CANCELLED & POSTPONED until April 2022**
District 2 Council Conference
Red Lion Hotel Paper Valley, 333 West College Avenue • Appleton, WI

MAY

- 3-8 **CANCELLED & POSTPONED until May 2021**
District 2 WOS Leadership Development Course (Levels I & II)
Zehnder's Splash Village Hotel & Waterpark, 1365 South Main Street • Frankenmuth, MI

AUGUST

- 3-6 **CANCELLED & POSTPONED until August 2022**
USW International Constitution Convention
MGM Grand Hotel, 3799 Las Vegas Boulevard • Las Vegas, NV

SEPTEMBER

- 8-11 Local Union Leadership Training (Wisconsin)
Dates and Locations to be determined
- 21-25 Local Union Leadership Training (Michigan)
Dates and Locations to be determined

OCTOBER

- 5-9 Presidents Meetings (Michigan)
Dates and Locations to be determined
- 19-23 Presidents Meetings (Wisconsin)
Dates and Locations to be determined

Important Notice

All USW District 2 offices are now open. However, the guidelines listed below have been implemented as the health and safety of our members and staff continues to be our number one priority.

- Appointments are currently required. Please call your staff or the office to set up a meeting time.
- Face masks must worn inside all office areas at all times.
- Everyone will be required to sign in and out of the office.
- If you are not feeling well or have been in contact with a covid-19 positive person, please stay home for your safety and the safety of others.

We continue to be committed doing our part in preventing the further spread of coronavirus (Covid-19) while representing our members.

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

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



[cdc.gov/COVID19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)

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.

Local 2-21 Holds an Informational Picket - submitted by Gerry Kell

On July 9, 2020, Local 2-21 hosted an informational picket outside the mill entrance as an opportunity to show solidarity and express contempt with Verso's efforts to undermine the contract by attempting to outsource many of our members' jobs, refusal to pay members quarantined due to Covid-19, and the year and a half long battle to get a finalized local agreement printed.



USW Next Generation (Locals 2-87, 2-94 & 2-144) have Successful Food Drive - submitted by Jason Wilcox

Another successful food drive has been completed! This time, the Next Generation committees from Locals 2-87, 2-94 and 2-144 were the hosts.

Pictured on the left are Kari Meshak, Debi Cleworth and Jared Wedell. On the right is Myles Bowden (featured last month) who spearheaded the event.



"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

UNITED STEELWORKERS
USW News
UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS

For Immediate Release:
July 18, 2020

Contact: Chelsey Engel,
(412) 212-5178, cengel@usw.org

USW: America Loses Irreplaceable Civil, Human Rights Leader with Passing of John Lewis

(PITTSBURGH) — *United Steelworkers (USW) International President Tom Conway and Vice President of Human Affairs Fred Redmond released the following statement on behalf of the union today regarding the death of Rep. John Lewis:*

"The USW is deeply saddened to learn of the passing of U.S. Rep. John Lewis.

"His endless courage in the face of injustice is a reminder of what ordinary people can do in extraordinary times – though, one could easily argue Rep. Lewis was far beyond ordinary.

"Often referred to as 'the conscience of Congress,' Rep. Lewis was always on the front of the line in the fight for civil rights.

"Even before he joined Congress in 1987, Rep. Lewis never faltered in his quest for justice. From marching in Selma, Ala., as an original Freedom Rider alongside Dr. King in 1965 to organizing a sit-in for gun control regulations following the deadly Pulse shooting in 2016, Rep. Lewis showed us all what it means to be a person of integrity and strength.

"Every decision he made in Congress, he made with people at the center of his mind, not politics. Every step he took in life, he took in the same way – with great purpose and passion – no matter what might face him on the other side.

"That is why we are not simply moved to tears by Rep. Lewis's death, but moved to action. We will fight for every American's right to vote, for their right to come home at night after work in the same condition they left, and for their right to a life of dignity and liberty.

"May we uplift the values Rep. Lewis embodied every day, and may he rest as he lived – in power and in peace."

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

###



"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

This Month In History • July 26, 1775 - by theHistoryChannel.com



Postal System Established

The U.S. postal system was established on July 26, 1775, by the Second Continental Congress, with Benjamin Franklin as its first postmaster general.

Franklin (1706-1790) put in place the foundation for many aspects of today's mail system. During early colonial times in the 1600s, few American colonists needed to send mail to each other; it was more likely that their correspondence was with letter writers in Britain. Mail deliveries from across the Atlantic were sporadic and could take many months to arrive. There were no post offices in the colonies, so mail was typically left at inns and taverns.



In 1753, Benjamin Franklin, who had been postmaster of Philadelphia, became one of two joint postmasters general for the colonies. He made numerous improvements to the mail system, including setting up new, more efficient colonial routes and cutting delivery time in half between Philadelphia and New York by having the weekly mail wagon travel both day and night via relay teams. Franklin also debuted the first rate chart, which standardized delivery costs based on distance and weight.

In 1774, the British fired Franklin from his postmaster job because of his revolutionary activities. However, the following year, he was appointed postmaster general of the United Colonies by the Continental Congress. Franklin held the job until late in 1776, when he was sent to France as a diplomat.

He left a vastly improved mail system, with routes from Florida to Maine and regular service between the colonies and Britain. President George Washington appointed Samuel Osgood, a former Massachusetts congressman, as the first postmaster general of the American nation under the new U.S. constitution in 1789.

At the time, there were approximately 75 post offices in the country. Today, the United States has over 40,000 post offices and the postal service delivers 212 billion pieces of mail each year to over 144 million homes and businesses in the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam, the American Virgin Islands and American Samoa.



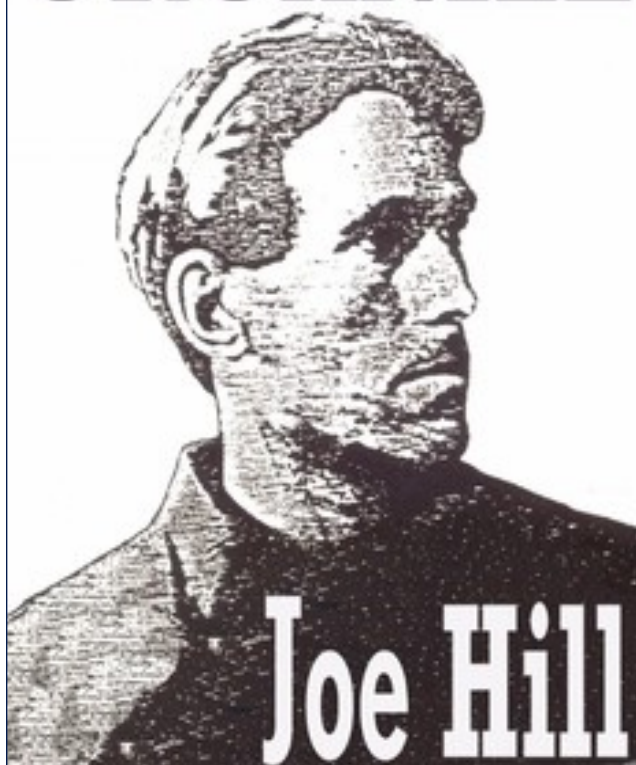
The postal service is the nation's largest civilian employer, with roughly 500,000 career workers. The postal service is a not-for-profit, self-supporting agency that covers its expenses through postage (stamp use in the United States started in 1847) and related products. The postal service gets the mail delivered, rain or shine, using everything from planes to mules.



"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

This Day in Labor History • July 18, 1914 - by the HistoryChannel.com

Don't Mourn... ORGANIZE



songwriters. Hill composed many of the IWW's best-loved anthems, including "The Preacher of the Slave" which introduced the phrase "pie in the sky."

By 1914, Hill was one of the most famous Wobblies in the nation.

Public notoriety, however, could prove dangerous for a radical union man. In 1914, Hill was arrested and charged with murdering two Salt Lake City policemen during a grocery store robbery. Although the evidence against Hill was tenuous, a jury of conservative Utahans convicted him on this day in 1914 and he was sentenced to death.

He was executed by firing squad the following year. Ever since, scholars have debated whether Hill was actually guilty or was railroaded because of his radical politics. Regardless of his guilt or innocence, Hill became a powerful martyr for the IWW cause by telegramming his comrades with a famous last-minute message: **"Don't waste any time in mourning. Organize."**

Labor Activist and Singer Joe Hill Sentenced to Death

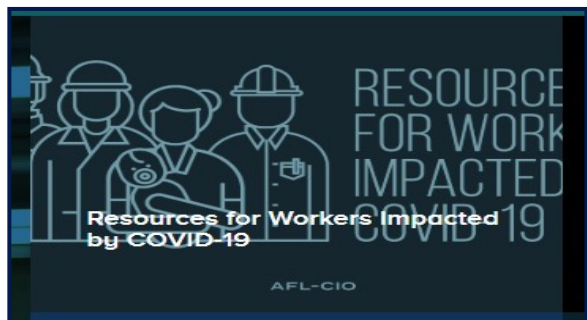
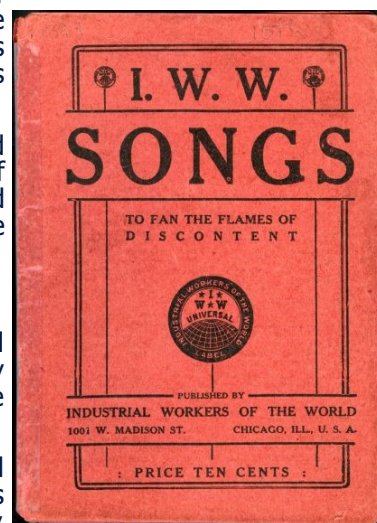
1914 - July 18, Labor activist and singer Joe Hill sentenced to death. Convicted of murder on meager evidence, the singing Wobbly Joe Hill is sentenced to be executed in Utah.

A native of Sweden who immigrated to the U.S. in 1879, Joe Hill joined the International Workers of the World (IWW) in 1910. The IWW was an industrial union that rejected the capitalist system and dreamed one day of leading a national workers' revolution.

Members of the IWW - known as Wobblies - were especially active in the western United States, where they enjoyed considerable success in organizing mistreated and exploited workers in the mining, logging and shipping Industries.

Beginning in 1908, the IWW began encouraging its membership to express their beliefs through song. The IWW published its Little Red Song Book, otherwise known as the I.W.W. Songs to Fan the Flames of Discontent.

A few years later, the witty and handsome Joe Hill became one of the Wobblies' leading singers and



The coronavirus pandemic has impacted the lives of millions of working people and our families.

If you have been affected, visit the AFL-CIO's website and select your state to find resources, programs and benefits available in your area to assist you during this crisis.

<https://aflcio.org/covid-19/state-resources>

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"



For Immediate Release:
July 9, 2020

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

USW Applauds Biden's Plan for Manufacturing, Innovation

PITTSBURGH – *United Steelworkers (USW) International President Tom Conway issued the following statement in response to the manufacturing and innovation segment of Joe Biden's Build Back Better economic plan, released today:*

"Recovering from the Covid-19 crisis and ensuring shared prosperity for generations to come will take bold action and a sustained commitment. Joe Biden's plan for revitalizing American manufacturing demonstrates both.

"As the pandemic made clear, our country must be able to supply its own needs. And now, more than ever, we urgently need to create good, family-sustaining jobs, both to stop the economic freefall and reverse decades of rampant economic inequality.

"Biden will jump-start American manufacturing through a long-needed investment in our nation's crumbling infrastructure. Coupled with strong 'Buy American' provisions that ensure tax money supports domestic industry, this rebuilding campaign will make our country more secure and create millions of jobs.

"His plan also includes a massive procurement commitment as well as a roadmap for bringing critical supply chains back to the United States. These provisions will put our country on stronger economic footing and bolster our national security.

"Just as crucially, Biden's plan acknowledges the necessity of strong labor protections that enable workers to bargain collectively for higher wages and better benefits. By supporting the PRO Act, Biden will ensure that the jobs created through his economic plan are middle-class jobs that enable workers to live the American dream.

"Our nation needs a leader who understands the necessity of a strong manufacturing base; from medicines to steel to clean energy technology, our country must produce things here and pay workers competitive wages to make them.

"Joe Biden's plan demonstrates that he not only grasps the strategic importance of domestic manufacturing but also values American 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.

###



MESSAGE FROM PITTSBURGH



Thomas M. Conway, International President

Posted: July 23, 2020 • page 1 of 2

Rebuilding Nicetown

Rich Cucarese and other members of United Steelworkers (USW) Local 4889 tend a vegetable garden, cook meals and operate a food pantry for their neighbors in Philadelphia's struggling Nicetown community.

Nicotown went into decline decades ago as corporations shut a string of factories, eliminating thousands of family-sustaining jobs that anchored the neighborhood. Blight festered, poverty soared, and government officials looked the other way.

Now, as much as Cucarese and his colleagues want to revitalize the community, there's just no way they can do it on their own.

Reversing decades of decline and neglect—in Nicetown and other decimated manufacturing communities across America—will require bold, sustained action like what Joe Biden proposed in his Build Back Better manufacturing blueprint.

The Democratic presidential candidate envisions major investments in manufacturing, technology, and research and development that will create millions of middle-class jobs and revitalize hard-hit communities across the country.

Just as important, he wants to equitably distribute these new opportunities while providing the educational access and labor protections essential to ensuring that all citizens have a shot at the American dream.

The COVID-19 pandemic, which cost millions of jobs and exposed America's struggle to produce critical goods like face masks, clearly demonstrated what residents of Nicetown have known for decades: Band-Aids and half measures aren't enough. The nation needs sweeping, coordinated action to rebuild manufacturing capacity.

For all the damage they suffered, Nicetown and other beleaguered manufacturing communities still have potential. Biden's plan would unleash it.

"There are definitely people in the community who are trying everything they can to make the area viable," said Cucarese, Local 4889's Rapid Response coordinator and an assistant operator on the galvanizing line at U.S. Steel's plant in Fairless Hills, about 25 miles from Nicetown. "There's despair, but there's also hope."

Over the past quarter-century, America lost millions of manufacturing jobs, many because failed trade policies incentivized corporations to shift operations to countries with low wages and lax environmental regulations.

But employers also eliminated jobs because of bankruptcies, mergers and other reasons. The loss of family-sustaining wages gutted the middle class and sent manufacturing neighborhoods into a nosedive.

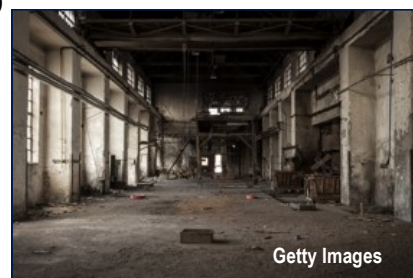
After Locals 404 of Philadelphia and 4889 of Fairless Hills consolidated in a Nicetown union hall about 18 months ago, Cucarese and a few of his colleagues explored the neighborhood.

They encountered the hulking remains of old factories but also good-hearted residents battling unemployment, troubled schools, hunger and unusually high rates of chronic health problems like asthma.

Nicotown's struggles quickly galvanized the USW members into action. Cucarese told residents, "We're here, and we're not just here, but we're here to help."

He and his colleagues planted a community garden so they could provide fresh vegetables to residents who have difficulty affording nutritious meals. They not only held food drives for their neighbors but opened a food pantry in the union hall. They rented office space to the Poor People's Army, an anti-poverty group.

While these efforts have made a huge difference, only a sustained, coordinated investment campaign will provide the sweeping change needed to revive Nicetown and other depressed manufacturing communities.



Rich Cucarese

— Continued on Page 10 —

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"



MESSAGE FROM PITTSBURGH



Thomas M. Conway, International President

Posted: July 23, 2020 • page 2 of 2

Rebuilding Nicetown - continued from page 9

That's where a plan like Build Back Better can make the crucial difference.

It will not only make huge investments to stimulate the creation of manufacturing jobs but ensure that communities across the nation - especially long-neglected places - get a fair share of those jobs and the prosperity they provide.

Under Build Back Better, the nation would invest \$300 billion in research, development and new technologies to fuel a reinvigorated manufacturing economy while spending another \$400 billion on American-made goods.

Biden pledged to spend some of that money on the steel, aluminum and other materials needed to repair roads, bridges and other crumbling infrastructure. The funds also could be used to ramp up manufacturing capacity in pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and other critical industries so the nation never again experiences shortages of face masks and other important items like it did during the pandemic.

But new jobs themselves aren't enough to rebuild the middle class and restore prosperity to struggling communities. Americans also need stronger labor protections to ensure they receive decent pay, good benefits and safe working conditions in return for their labor.

That's why enacting the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, which passed the House this year but languishes in the Republican-controlled Senate, is a key component of Biden's manufacturing strategy.

The PRO Act would make it easier for workers to form unions and impose stiff penalties on employers who illegally interfere in organizing campaigns.

Just as the demise of American manufacturing sent communities into a tailspin, empowered workers in new middle-class jobs have the potential to turn neighborhoods around.

That's the essence of Biden's approach.

As incomes rise, fewer residents will rely on a safety net now stretched to the breaking point.

But residents crave a voice as much as they need investment.

Cucarese found that the key to building rapport with his neighbors was to listen to their concerns and make them partners in plans for food drives and other community service projects.

To realize his goal of revitalizing manufacturing communities, Biden likewise will have to collaborate closely with residents already laboring hard to make a difference.

These "ground forces," as Cucarese calls them, know their neighbors' needs better than anyone and more than earned a prominent part in their communities' rebirth.

Empowering these residents will unleash the transformative potential envisioned in Build Back Better - and show that Biden's plan isn't merely a promise but his bond with struggling communities.

"If you show people that you're being genuine," Cucarese said, "they'll jump in with both feet."



Free College for UNION MEMBERS and Their Families

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 dependants 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**



In Partnership With
**EASTERN GATEWAY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
Part of the University System of Ohio



"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"