



MICHAEL H. BOLTON, DIRECTOR

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#### 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 Fancsai	1296	Steel and Related	rfancsai@yahoo.com
Don Carlson	58	Paper	doncarlson@iglu.net
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United Steelworkers District 2  
AFL-CIO-CLC

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Contributors to this issue include:

Lori Gulekurt, Tammy Duncan, Jay McMullan, Sue Browne, Ross Winklbauer, Linda Lucas, Jason Wilcox, Myles Bowden, Michael Grondz, Cindy Odden, Tony Pascarella, Steve Doherty, USW New Media, AFL-CIO, The History Channel

Articles and photos are welcome and should be sent:

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October 25, 2019, is the deadline for submissions for the next issue.

## UNITED STEELWORKERS USW UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS DISTRICT 2

# NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2019 • VOLUME 9, ISSUE 9, PAGE 1

## With a Union – YOU HAVE A VOICE!

### A Message from Michael Bolton



If you've watched any of the three Democratic Presidential debates, you've heard a large portion of the discussions were centered on health care, whether it was Senator Bernie Sanders' Medicare for All program or Joe Biden's buy in to a public option Medicare. Each candidate recognized that our employer-based health care system is broken. Now, new results from a Kaiser Family Foundation poll indicate that the health care issue is going to get even more critical.

The reason the issue is going to get hotter is because for the first time in U.S. history, employers are now paying over \$20,000 annually for a family health insurance policy. To be exact, the actual figure that many employers reported was \$20,576. Think about it. That's the equivalent of buying each employee a 2019 Chevy Cruze each year. Kaiser polled 2,012 randomly selected employers from across the country.

In addition to companies paying more, workers are picking up a greater share of the cost. Poll numbers reveal the majority of employers pay 71% of premium costs, leaving the employee with the remaining 29% along with being responsible for higher deductibles and co-pays.

For a single person plan, the 2019 price was \$7,188 per policy, or about 4% higher than the previous year. And finally, the survey found that family plan rates are increasing at a pace of about 5% to 6% annually, greatly outpacing inflation and yearly wage increases.

For us in the labor movement, those numbers are troubling. As tough as negotiating better wages and other benefits, such as retirement, have been over the past two decades, it's only going to get worse.

And, because most of our trading partners offer some sort of single payer health plans to workers in their countries, it's going to become a huge trade issue. It already gives overseas competitors an advantage over U.S. producers. Soon it could be another reason American employers relocate overseas because they can no

longer afford to provide health care.

Something has to be done and it has to happen soon. I urge each of you to examine the health care plans of each candidate this election. Our current system is broken and can no longer sustain the status quo. The working class is already being pressured by rising costs of education, increases in food and housing, as well as transportation and energy. Congress must act to stop the economic squeeze on the working class. We need health care reform now!

Another major media topic is the labor dispute between the UAW and General Motors. The news coming out of Solidarity House is the current strike is affecting some 46,000 UAW members across the U.S. and Canada. While management is trying to undermine the Union publicly, the fight the UAW is engaged in will ultimately impact workers throughout manufacturing, in Union and non-Union shops alike.

Striking workers are fighting for higher wages, ending a two-tier wage system, stopping the exploitation of temporary workers and maintaining affordable health care coverage. But, there is a bigger issue in play here; and that fight is to protect UAW jobs for the future.

I think we all remember GM's unilateral decision to shut down six plants a couple of years ago. It came after UAW members made numerous sacrifices to keep the company afloat during the Great Recession of 2008. Apparently, GM management must have forgotten the steps the American public took to force Congress to support the Detroit Big Three when it looked like the industry would go belly up. It was almost as if the company was thumbing its nose at the \$87 billion investment Americans made to save the auto industry when GM announced the work from one of those plants was moving to Mexico.

Despite GM's arrogance, the UAW has a strategy to keep auto making jobs in America; and they are negotiating to put that plan into action. I think it is a blueprint that all Unions should begin to consider and should support as contract talks continue. The plan is to get the auto companies to agree to invest billions of dollars in plants operating in the United States. Let's face it, if management is

— Continued on Page 2 —

## "GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

## Did you know?

**Unions help build a better life for working people, but outdated laws have hampered our basic right to join together and negotiate for better pay, benefits and working conditions.**

**A new bill, the Protecting the Right to Organize Act, would modernize our nation's labor laws.**



For more pictures of the 2019 Labor Day Parades, go to pages 9 and 10



### 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  
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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

on the hook to put a \$100 million in a transmission plant in Toledo, it's not very likely they will shut that plant down and send its work to Mexico or Viet Nam. This is the real reason for the work stoppage and it's why we should all stand with UAW members.

Remember what we say in the Labor Movement, "An injury to one is an injury to all". Join our brothers and sisters on the picket line. Should the strike drag on, encourage your Local Union to make a contribution to the UAW's strike and defense fund. Even if the only thing you can do is blow your horn to show support as you drive by a picket line --- DO IT! Let's show them they are not alone! Their fight is the Steelworkers' fight too!

The GM strike also serves as a strong reminder to all American workers on why Unions are still important in the fight to reinvigorate America's working class. With a Union, workers at GM, one of the most powerful corporations in the world, have a seat right across from management to determine wages, benefits and working conditions. They are bargaining to stop plant closings while negotiating dignity in retirement.

Without a Union, workers are "at will employees" who can be fired at any time with or without cause. While many workers believe there is a government agency to help them fight an unjust discharge, unless you were fired due to race, religion, or age, there is no such protection for you.

Without a Union, your boss gets to decide your wages, the kind of insurance you have and how much you pay for it. Since a non-Union worker does not have a contract, they do not have a grievance procedure to stop management from changing rules any time they feel like it nor is there a contractual procedure in place to end unfair treatment in the workplace.

Without a Union, the boss gets to decide who gets the best jobs and who receives promotions. The boss also determines the hours you work and the conditions you work in.

However, with a Union – **YOU HAVE A VOICE!** With a Union contract, you have negotiated procedures to settle disagreements and ensure management treats you as an equal. Management and politicians on the right are doing their damndest to convince workers that Unions are a thing of the past. But, as you and I both know, "We would not go to work without one!"

I'd like to remind you we will soon be holding our quarterly District 2 presidents meetings at several locations across the District to fill you in on what's happening within the Steelworkers and District 2. These meetings also provide a good opportunity for our Local Union officers to share their thoughts and concerns. The good news is you do not have to be a President or an officer to attend. Members are welcome to join us too! Just a reminder, any lost time related to attending these meetings is the responsibility of the Local Union. Meeting dates and locations are listed in our "2019 District 2 Calendar of Events", found on page 3 of this newsletter and on District 2's page of the USW's website. Each meeting begins at 9:00 am and concludes by 12:00 noon.

I look forward to seeing you in October. In the meantime, support our UAW brothers and sisters; and – **GO BUILD THE UNION!**



**"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"**





## 2019 District 2 Calendar of Events

### JANUARY

- 16 WOS Lobby Day (WI)**  
*Capitol Building, Room 300 SE, 2 East Main Street • Madison, WI*
- 18-21 AFL-CIO Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Civil & Human Rights Conf.**  
*Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Ave Northwest • Washington, DC*
- 22 WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*USW Local 2-21 Hall, 1201 Sheridan Road • Escanaba, MI*

### FEBRUARY

- 11 LM Review Session**  
*USW Local 12075 Hall, 3510 James Savage Road • Midland, MI*
- 12 LM Review Session**  
*Bungalow Inn, 1100 28th Street • Manistee, MI*
- 13 LM Review Session**  
*Teamsters Local 7 Hall, 3330 Miller Road • Kalamazoo, MI*
- 14 LM Review Session**  
*USW District 2 Southern MI Sub-Office, 20600 Eureka Road, Suite 300 • Taylor, MI*
- 22 WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*American Legion Hall, 327 W. Wisconsin Avenue • Tomahawk, WI*
- 25 LM Review Session**  
*USW Local 2-21 Hall, 1201 Sheridan Road • Escanaba, MI*
- 26 LM Review Session**  
*Kronenwetter Village Hall, 1582 Kronenwetter Drive • Kronenwetter, WI*
- 27 LM Review Session**  
*Lucky Dog's Labor Temple, 157 S. Green Bay Road • Neenah, WI*
- 28 LM Review Session**  
*Milwaukee Labor Council Building, 633 S. Hawley Road • Milwaukee, WI*

### MARCH

- 13 WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*USW Local 2-148 Hall, 1201 Gillingham Road • Neenah, WI*
- 20 WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*USW Local 12075 Hall, 3510 James Savage Road • Midland, MI*
- 22 WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*USW Dist. 2 Southern MI Sub-Office, 20600 Eureka Road, Suite 300 • Taylor, MI*
- 22 WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*Milwaukee Labor Council Building, 633 S. Hawley Road • Milwaukee, WI*
- 26 WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*Kent Ionia Labor Hall, 918 Benjamin Avenue NE • Grand Rapids, MI*
- 27 WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*Old Morton Federal Credit Union, 516 Kosciuszko • Manistee, MI*

### APRIL

- 9-10 District 2 Legislative Conference**  
*Blue Chip Casino, Hotel and Spa, 777 Blue Chip Drive • Michigan City, IN*
- 15 Presidents Meeting**  
*Ronn Hall, 1206 Baldwin Avenue • Negaunee, MI*
- 16 Presidents Meeting**  
*Fraternal Order of Eagles, 1104 S. Oak Avenue • Marshfield, WI*
- 17 Presidents Meeting**  
*Lucky Dog's Labor Temple, 157 S. Green Bay Road • Neenah, WI*
- 18 Presidents Meeting**  
*Milwaukee Labor Council Building, 633 S. Hawley Road • Milwaukee, WI*
- 26 WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*Old Morton Federal Credit Union, 516 Kosciuszko • Manistee, MI*

### MAY

- 1 District 2 Lobby Day (Wisconsin)**  
*Capitol Building (North Wing), 2 East Main Street • Madison, WI*
- 5-10 District 2 WOS Leadership Development Course (Levels I & II)**  
*Landmark Resort, 4929 Landmark Drive • Egg Harbor, WI*
- 14 Sub-District Local Union Leadership Training (NMI)**  
*Holiday Inn, 810 Cinema Drive • Midland, MI, and  
USW Local 12075 Hall, 3510 James Savage Drive • Midland, MI*
- 16 Sub-District Local Union Leadership Training (SMI)**  
*Village Conference Center • 1645 Commerce Park Drive, Chelsea, MI*
- 21 USW District 2 Lobby Day (Michigan)**  
*Michigan State AFL-CIO Office, 419 South Washington Square, Suite 200 • Lansing, MI*
- 21 Sub-District Local Union Leadership Training (NWI)**  
*Red Lion Hotel Paper Valley • 333 West College Avenue, Appleton, WI*
- 23 Sub-District Local Union Leadership Training (SWI)**  
*Four Points by Sheraton - Milwaukee Airport • 5311 South Howell Avenue, Milwaukee, WI*

### JUNE

- 7 WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*Joann Lester Library, 100 Park Street • Nekoosa, WI*
- 11 WOS Quarterly Meeting (Central Michigan Area)**  
*Michigan State AFL-CIO Office, 419 South Washington Square • Lansing, MI*
- 11 Presidents Meeting**  
*Teamsters Local 7 Hall, 3330 Miller Road • Kalamazoo, MI*
- 12 Presidents Meeting**  
*USW Local 12075 Hall, 3510 James Savage Road • Midland, MI*

### JUNE continued

- 12 WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*USW Local 2-148 Hall, 1201 Gillingham Road • Neenah, WI*
- 13 Presidents Meeting**  
*USW District 2 Southern MI Sub-Office, 20600 Eureka Road, Suite 300 • Taylor, MI*
- 18 WOS Quarterly Meeting (Southern Michigan Area)**  
*Michigan State AFL-CIO Office, 419 South Washington Square • Lansing, MI*
- 21 WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*Kent Ionia Labor Hall, 918 Benjamin Avenue NE • Grand Rapids, MI*

### JULY

- 8-9 Financial Officers Training (Wisconsin)**  
*Red Lion Hotel Paper Valley, 333 West College Avenue • Appleton, WI*
- 11-12 Financial Officers Training (Michigan)**  
*Great Hall Banquet & Convention Center, 5121 Bay City Road • Midland, MI*
- 12 WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*Milwaukee Labor Council Building, 633 S. Hawley Road • Milwaukee, WI*
- 21-25 USW International Civil and Human Rights Conference**  
*Hilton Minneapolis, 1001 Marquette Avenue • Minneapolis, MN*

### AUGUST

- 20 WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*Upper Michigan Community Credit Union, 204 M-28 East • Munising, MI*

### SEPTEMBER

- 11 WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*USW Local 2-148 Hall, 1201 Gillingham Road • Neenah, WI*
- 9-13 USW International Safety and Health Conference**  
*Westin Convention Center, 1000 Penn Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA*
- 13 WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*Marzinski Horse Trailhead & Campground, Marzinski Road (south of M-55) • Manistee, MI*
- 13 WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*Joann Lester Library, 100 Park Street • Nekoosa, WI*
- 19 WOS Quarterly Meeting (Western Michigan Area)**  
*Michigan State AFL-CIO Office, 419 South Washington Square • Lansing, MI*

### OCTOBER

- 2 WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*USW Local 12075 Hall, 3510 James Savage Road • Midland, MI*
- 4 WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*USW Dist. 2 Southern MI Sub-Office, 20600 Eureka Road, Suite 300 • Taylor, MI*
- 8 Presidents Meeting**  
*Teamsters Local 7 Hall, 3330 Miller Road • Kalamazoo, MI*
- 9 Presidents Meeting**  
*USW Local 12075 Hall, 3510 James Savage Road • Midland, MI*
- 10 Presidents Meeting**  
*USW District 2 Southern MI Sub-Office, 20600 Eureka Road, Suite 300 • Taylor, MI*
- 11 WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*Milwaukee Labor Council Building, 633 S. Hawley Road • Milwaukee, WI*
- 15 Presidents Meeting**  
*Ronn Hall, 1206 Baldwin Avenue • Negaunee, MI*
- 16 Presidents Meeting**  
*Fraternal Order of Eagles, 1104 S. Oak Avenue • Marshfield, WI*
- 17 Presidents Meeting**  
*Green Bay Labor Temple, 1570 Elizabeth Street • Green Bay, WI*
- 18 Presidents Meeting**  
*Milwaukee Labor Council Building, 633 S. Hawley Road • Milwaukee, WI*
- 22 WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*Ronn Hall, 1206 Baldwin Avenue • Negaunee, MI*
- 28-30 USW International Rapid Response Conference**  
*Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Avenue NW • Washington, D.C.*

### NOVEMBER

- 5 Sub-District Local Union Leadership Training (SWI)**  
*Four Points by Sheraton - Milwaukee Airport • 5311 South Howell Avenue, Milwaukee, WI*
- 7 Sub-District Local Union Leadership Training (NWI)**  
*Red Lion Hotel Paper Valley • 333 West College Avenue, Appleton, WI*
- 18-22 USW International Next Generation Conference**  
*The Westin Pittsburgh, 1000 Penn Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA*

### DECEMBER

- 3 Sub-District Local Union Leadership Training (NMI)**  
*USW Local 12075 Hall, 3510 James Savage Drive • Midland, MI*
- 5 Sub-District Local Union Leadership Training (SMI)**  
*Village Conference Center • 1645 Commerce Park Drive, Chelsea, MI*

This 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.

## Getting to Know Your District 2 Next Generation Coordinators

This month we are featuring **Myles Bowden** – *Northern WI & MI Sub-District Next Generation Coordinator*



Myles Bowden is a first-time steward for Local 2-94 in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin. He works as a laborer at Nine Dragons Paper and has held various positions over the 10 years he has been employed there.

Myles and his wife, Lindsey, are proud parents of their 18-month old son, Marcus, and two bulldogs, Jackson and Bella. He enjoys spending time camping with his family, riding his motorcycle, and chasing his son around.

Myles believes the Next Gen program is important as it's a driving force to get younger members more actively involved in their Union and to spread further awareness of what Unions do for the working class. He wants folks to see how the Union is actively working to maintain what it has bargained for its membership. He'd like them to understand that it is not "just another Union", it's THEIR Union. Myles wants the Next Generation to take ownership and pride in their Union.

**If you wish to inquire or have any questions about the Next Generation program, please feel free to contact Myles Bowden at: [Mbowden294@gmail.com](mailto:Mbowden294@gmail.com)**

## USW LU4950's Next Generation's Successful "Annual Support Local Schools Raffle" - by Michael Grondz

The Next Generation Committee of USW Local 4950 has completed their annual "Support Local Schools" raffle for 2019. The committee produced another record year and was able to distribute \$13,000 to nine different elementary schools across Michigan's central upper peninsula. Since their humble beginnings in 2016, they have been able to donate over \$30,000 to help local students and educators in the community.

The schools that we donated to this year were as follows: Republic Michigamme School, Aspen Ridge Elementary School, Birchview Elementary School, Lakeview Elementary School, Powel Township School, Gilbert Elementary School, Sawyer Elementary School, Wells Township School, and Cherry Creek Elementary School.

LU 4950's Next Generation Committee: Tyson Butorac, Jeremy Ollanketo, Dan Cox, Jeremy Bowen, Dave Drummond, and Michael Grondz.



**"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"**



**Alliance for Retired Americans • Retiree News - by Jay McMurran, 1st Vice-Pres., MIARA & USW District 2 SOAR Executive Board Member**



## SOAR Eyes on Washington

"SOAR Eyes on Washington" is a new column that will appear regularly in the *SOAR Connection*. It replaces the article formerly produced by long-time USW legislative staffer, Ken Kovach. He was active in the legislative process and has

lobbied in support of legislation to benefit Steelworkers in every sector of the Union. Ken has retired, and we want to thank him for the many contributions he has made toward improving our lives and wish him the very best as enjoys the fruits of his labor.

Congress has returned to work after its August recess and SOAR is going to be keeping a close eye on several issues that are vitally important to active and retired Steelworker members.

The first is NAFTA 2.0 - the new trade agreement the Trump administration has negotiated with Mexico and Canada. The proposed trade pact is an improvement over the current agreement. It takes steps to correct some flaws in Mexican labor rights laws and addresses the pay disparity between Mexican and U.S. workers. The problem is there is no language in the agreements to enforce violations of the labor and wage standards. National AFL-CIO President, Richard Trumka told a national media audience that without enforcement, the American labor movement cannot support this agreement. Trumka said, "Without a way to ensure that all parties abide by this trade agreement, there must be provisions in it to guarantee total real compliance with the language."

Another sticking point is the pact's failure to adequately address concerns about global warming and climate protections. Trumka further stated, "In the U.S., we have developed pollution standards that are cleaning up our air, soil and water. Those standards have cost industry millions to comply with, but they are working. Unfortunately, several of our trading partners have not taken the needed steps to protect our environment and it has become a trade issue. Without the pollution standards similar to ours in America, building plants in places like Mexico and Viet Nam are cheaper and prompting U.S. employers to move overseas. Trading nations must be held to the same standard to level the playing field and ensure a healthy future for a clean planet."

Another issue likely to be lobbied for during the Rapid Response Conference in Washington D.C. later this month is the Butch Lewis Act which addresses funding for multi-employer pension plans and the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation (PBGC). The act establishes a loan program to help plans meet funding obligations; and, therefore, allow them to continue paying full benefits to plan participants. The measure has been passed by the House and was sent to the Senate for consideration. However, Senate Majority Leader, Mitch McConnell is sitting on it as he waits for word on whether the President will sign it or not. McConnell is holding numerous pieces of legislation he thinks will cast Republicans in a bad light during the run-up to next fall's election, including a bill that would reform the Labor Relations Act of 1932. The proposed bill would level the playing field for workers attempting to join a Union and correct some of the injustices of Republican legislation over the past ten years.

Organized labor and Union members will be taking action over the coming weeks to convince their U.S. Senators to push McConnell to act. Julie Stein, the USW's National Director of SOAR, stated, "The health of our multi-employer pension plan system is quickly reaching the crisis level. Congress needs to act quickly to prevent hardship for millions of American retirees. McConnell has to be told the time to act is now!"

**SOAR Chapters 29-1 and 29-4 News - by Tony Pascarella, SOAR President 29-4 and D2 SOAR Coordinator**



Located in the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, Pointe Mouillee is the largest fresh water marsh restoration project in North America. On September 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Pointe Mouillee Waterfowl Festival celebrated its 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary. This family-friendly event includes different types of competitions (ranging from archery to dog jumping). There are arts and crafts vendors and an outdoor swap meet for hunting and outdoor items. A kids' area offers games and face painting. There are also raffles and a live auction. Every year retirees from Local 2659 SOAR Chapter 29-4 and Local 1299 SOAR Chapter 29-1 volunteer to help raise funds through raffles. All money raised goes back to benefit the refuge.



Left to Right: Tony Pascarella, Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-M12), Blue Wilson and Pat Patterson

During this year's festival, the USW retirees also assisted the Alliance for American Manufacturing by getting petitions signed to stop subsidizing Chinese companies with our tax dollars. The signed petitions will be sent to Congress and to the Senate.

Volunteers not shown are Art Druyor, Mimi Rinna, Jay McMurran, Billy Luzon and Carl Winkleman.

**"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"**

**Trump's Death by Self-Regard** - by Robert Kuttner • AMERICAN PROSPECT • September 25, 2019 - Reprinted



ROBERT KUTTNER

**Trump's Death by Self-Regard** The just-released transcript of Trump's call with Ukraine's President Zelensky is nothing short of staggering.

Trump's self-regard, swagger, and extreme narcissism are all on display. You get the sense that he is so eager to strut his stuff and have the public see it, that it overwhelms any sense on his part that this particular strut could be the stuff of impeachment.

And of course, the transcript can't be read in isolation. Just days before, as Trump now admits, he withheld \$400 million in military aid to Ukraine. There would have been no reason to do this except as leverage.

So now we have a smoking gun, every bit as damaging and self-inflicted as the Nixon tapes.

And irony of ironies, we have Trump up against another president who began as a TV entertainer. Except that Zelensky, who once played a president on Ukrainian TV, seems to have navigated the transition to actual president a lot better than Trump.

There are also reports that Trump has withdrawn his efforts to prevent the whistle-blower from testifying to Congress because of pressure from Republican legislators. And this is the second game changer. As flat-out illegal behavior is documented, expect more Republicans to defect.

As one who has been advocating impeachment for months, I'm always amazed at the tendency of pundits to make straight-line extrapolations from the current state of public and elite opinion. But public opinion is dynamic.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has taken a lot of grief from progressives for waiting so long. As things turned out, she played it exactly right. She waited until she had a transgression that the public could easily grasp, until she had the overwhelming majority of the Democratic Caucus with her, and then she went all in.

**I Take No Pleasure In Sharing This News With You Today** - by Debbie Dingell (D-MI 12th) • September 24, 2019 - Reprinted



CONGRESSWOMEN  
DEBBIE DINGELL

Since the day Donald Trump was sworn into office, he has shown little interest in adhering to the norms that have given the world confidence that the United States is a good actor and an honest broker on the international stage.

But his bad and unusual behavior alone, in my opinion, has not been enough to put our already divided country through the turmoil of an impeachment proceeding.

However, there is one thing over which we cannot allow ourselves to be divided, and that is the rule of law.

**My oath when I was sworn into the 116th Congress was to uphold the Constitution and to protect our national security. That is why, in light of recent revelations and admissions by the President, I now support beginning an impeachment inquiry in the House.**

We must follow the facts and we must hold this President accountable if he broke the law.

Some may say this is an extreme measure. But when faced with the extreme actions on the part of the President, I see no other course.

Unlike in many parts of the world, there are things we do not allow our elected leaders to do in the United States. Chief among them is the use of taxpayer dollars for personal and political gain.

The allegations are that President Trump attempted to extort Ukraine into investigating his political opponent under the threat of withholding aid authorized by Congress to ensure our national security interests. When he did that, he broke the law and he failed to uphold his oath of office.

The evidence of this crime that has been reported, the President's comments on the matter, and the administration's refusal to follow protocols that allow Congress to exercise its oversight responsibility leave us with no other options.

It is time to begin an impeachment inquiry so that we can get to the bottom of what happened, and if necessary, hold those who broke the law, including the President, accountable.

No one is above the law.

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
September 26, 2019

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Tony Montana – (412) 562-2592  
or [tmontana@usw.org](mailto:tmontana@usw.org)

### USW Urges Congress to Pass PRO Act, Restore Rights for American Workers

**PITTSBURGH** –The United Steelworkers (USW) today urged the House of Representatives to pass the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, which received its final markup by the Committee on Education and Labor on Wednesday.

USW International President Thomas M. Conway called H.R. 2474 the most comprehensive labor bill undertaken by Congress in many years, designed to modernize the law and help level the playing field for workers who want to exercise their rights to organize and bargain collectively.

"Despite being more productive than ever, American workers are further behind than they have been in generations," Conway said. "CEOs with the help of corporate lobbyists have been trying to hobble unions for decades with 'right-to-work' and other anti-worker laws. Yet organizing remains the only viable means to rebuild a strong American middle class and ensure workers receive an honest day's pay for an honest day's work."

"The PRO Act will help restore the balance of power between employers and the employed and hopefully begin to address the epidemic problem of income inequality," Conway said.

Conway said that representatives from all political parties should line up to co-sponsor the PRO Act and rally their peers in support without delay, especially if they plan to solicit union votes, volunteers or endorsements.

"Steelworkers across the country will know which of their elected public servants voted to support their union, good jobs, access to quality, affordable healthcare and retirement with security and dignity," he said. "As always, we will educate and encourage our members to let their representatives know where they stand as constituents throughout the process."

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

###

### USW LU 12585 and PCA Management Attend "24 Hour Incident Investigation" Class

- by Steve Doherty, Program Coordinator, USW Tony Mazzocchi Center

PCA Local 12585 members and management recently attended a 24-hour Incident Investigation class in Filer City, Michigan. The class was facilitated by District 2, and Local 12585 members Randy Milton and Paul Protasiewicz, in an effort to bolster the site investigation efforts. Representatives from a cross-section of the mill learned how to investigate incidents and make Systems of Safety based recommendations for action items resulting from their investigations. The group now plans to conduct investigations together using the new labor and management investigators at the site.



"Our Local Union Safety Committee and Department Safety members will now work closely with our management counterparts to get to the root causes of incidents and address them," according to Randy Milton. "Our members will now be able to more meaningfully participate in our safety efforts at the facility." The local asked for volunteers to participate in the class and the response was exceptional. Trainers and materials are provided by the USW Tony Mazzocchi Center.

If you are interested in classes for your local, please contact your staff representative. For a catalog of classes, go to [www.uswtmc.org](http://www.uswtmc.org).

**"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"**



## This Month in Labor History: September 26, 1960 • First Televised Presidential Debate - *The History Channel*

### Kennedy and Nixon square off in first televised presidential debate

For the first time in U.S. history, a debate between major party presidential candidates is shown on television. The presidential hopefuls, John F. Kennedy, a Democratic senator of Massachusetts, and Richard M. Nixon, the vice president of the United States, met in a Chicago studio to discuss U.S. domestic matters.



Kennedy emerged the apparent winner from this first of four televised debates, partly owing to his greater ease before the camera than Nixon, who, unlike Kennedy, seemed nervous and declined to wear makeup. Nixon fared better in the second and third debates, and on October 21 the candidates met to discuss foreign affairs in their fourth and final debate.

Less than three weeks later, on November 8, Kennedy won 49.7 percent of the popular vote in one of the closest presidential elections in U.S. history, surpassing by a fraction the 49.6 percent received by his Republican opponent.

One year after leaving the vice presidency, Nixon returned to politics, winning the Republican nomination for governor of California. Although he lost the election, Nixon returned to the national stage in 1968 in a successful bid for the presidency. Like Lyndon Johnson in 1964, Nixon declined to debate his opponent in the 1968 presidential campaign.

Televised presidential debates returned in 1976, and have been held in every presidential campaign since.

## This Month in History: 1845 & 1981 - *The History Channel*

On September 15, 1845: Earlier in the year, 5,000 women cotton mill workers in and around Pittsburgh go on strike for a 10-hour day and an end to child labor. Months into the strike, hundreds marched on the Blackstock Mill, one of the largest in the area.

The women broke down the factory's gates and forcibly expelled the scabs, while the men who accompanied them kept the police at bay.



On September 19, 1981: More than 260,000 people converge on Washington, DC, for Solidarity Day, a march and rally for "Jobs, Justice, Compassion" in response to President Ronald Reagan's anti-worker, anti-union policies. 250 organizations – including unions, civil rights, religious, and social justice – participated.



## U.S. Senator Tammy Bald (D-W) Visits Wisconsin Aluminum Foundry - submitted by Jason Wilcox, D2 Staff Representative

Wisconsin Aluminum Foundry (WAF) Business Leaders along with USW Local 125A President Mark Nonnemacher, Vice-President Marcos Alfaro, Staff Representative Jason Wilcox and others hosted Senator Tammy Baldwin on Wednesday, September 4, 2019, to talk about a number of legislative items that are affecting not only them, but many other businesses throughout the state and country.

A topic discussed was a new NAFTA. The United Steelworkers has been working closely with the leadership in the House of Representatives and the Senate Finance Committee on this agreement. One of the many key points is the USMCA (NAFTA 2.0) does not have an enforceable labor standard that unions and workers can demand action on. Just as companies can file trade cases to protect against illegal trade practices, unions and workers also need something similar to enforce labor rights.

The **Made in America Act (S. 1955)** improves Buy America requirements in the federal government, ensuring American taxpayer dollars are used to benefit American workers and companies. It also requires the Department of Commerce to consider how many American jobs are created when setting its 'American made' standards. The USW has endorsed this legislation.

Another topic the group spent time discussing was the **Promoting Apprenticeships through Regional Training Network for Employers' Required Skills (PARTNERS) Act (S. 431)**. One point of this Act is that it would provide grants to states for industry partnerships with small and medium sized businesses to develop or expand on the job training and support services for workers for a period of three years. The USW has not endorsed the bill, but with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) reauthorization pending next year, we look forward to working with Senator Baldwin and others on finding ways to improve job training.

All in all, it was a great visit and tour where ideas and thoughts were shared.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.baldwin.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Made%20in%20America%20Act%20One-Pager1.pdf>



## 2019 Labor Day Parade Pictures - Milwaukee, WI



— Continued on Page 10 —

**"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"**



## 2019 Labor Day Parade Pictures - Negaunee, MI



## 2019 Labor Day Parade Pictures - Detroit, MI



## 2019 Labor Day Parade Pictures - Appleton, WI



**"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"**



## Wisconsin WOS Volunteer for Lupus Walk in Middleton, Wisconsin - by Cindy Odden



Pictured left to right: Cindy Odden, Linda Peterson, Jordan Gardner and Linda Vick

The Mayo Clinic describes Lupus as "a systemic autoimmune disease that occurs when your body's immune system attacks your own tissues and organs. Inflammation caused by lupus can affect many different body systems — including your joints, skin, kidneys, blood cells, brain, heart and lungs".

In addition to creating an opportunity for families and friends affected by lupus to join together, the "Walk to End Lupus" events have one main purpose – to end lupus.

The WOS of Southern Wisconsin were asked (and participated) on short notice to volunteer at the Lupus Walk held on September 14 at the Fireman's Park located in Middleton, WI. Thank you for coming out to volunteer at the last minute

## Michigan Women of Steel Lobby Day - by Linda Lucas

Women of Steel lobbied at the Michigan State Capitol on September 19. They spoke to Michigan's senators and representatives regarding protecting multi-employer pensions and violence prevention plans to help keep healthcare workers safe in their workplace. It was a good learning experience for those who had never lobbied before.

After lobbying, everyone pooled money together and went to Domino's where six large pizzas were purchased. When Domino's found out the pizzas were going to be taken to the UAW workers on the picket line, they offered a good deal on them. The \$70.00 that was left over was put into the UAW pot for the strikers.



Picture on Left:

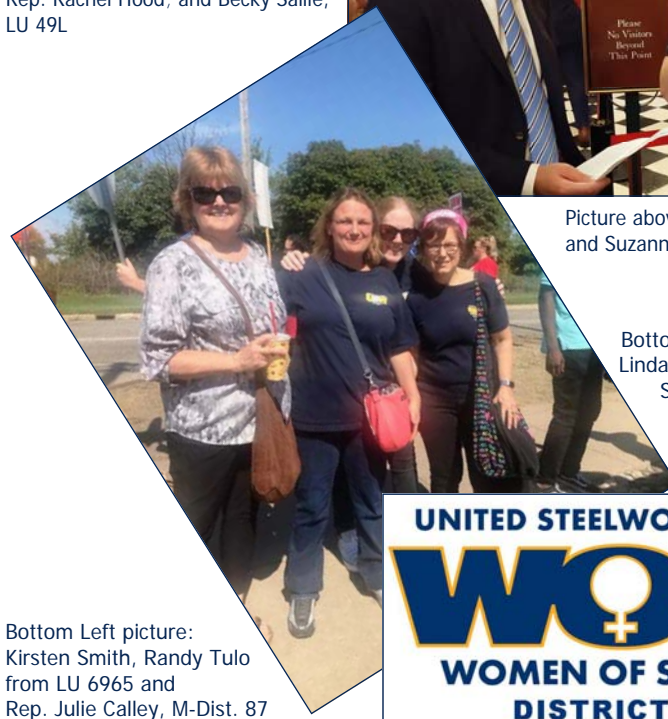
Suzanna Burgess, LU 2-1010;  
Kristen Smith, LU 5965; Dora Abbott,  
LU 2-1010; Randy Tulo, LU 5965;  
Rep. Rachel Hood; and Becky Sallie,  
LU 49L



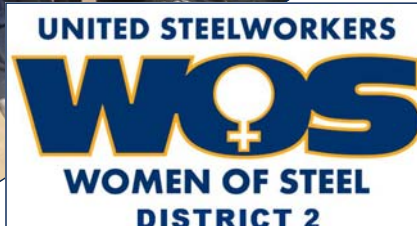
Picture above: Rep. Jon Hoadley  
and Suzanna Burgess, LU 2-1010



Bottom Left picture:  
Kirsten Smith, Randy Tulo  
from LU 6965 and  
Rep. Julie Calley, M-Dist. 87



Bottom right picture, L-R:  
Linda Lucas, Dora Abbott,  
Suzanna Burgess and  
Beckie Sallie.





## USW District 2 Members Taking Action – by Sue Browne, Rapid Response Coordinator

Local 14540 actively supported the “Safe Jobs Now” campaign. Even though they all work for the road commission in Mio, Michigan, many have family members and friends who work in the healthcare field. A shout out to those pictured for staying after hours to meet with Sue Browne, Rapid Response Coordinator for District 2, to talk about the program and for participating in this action.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our current “Safe Jobs Now” Rapid Response campaign supporting The Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act (**H.R. 1309/S. 851**), which directs Occupational Safety and Health Administration to ensure these workplaces develop and implement violence prevention plans, something that is long overdue.

We will be taking our message to Capitol Hill during the National Rapid Response and Legislative Conference in October when we will hand-deliver the postcards that have been sent in.

As we continue to rebuild Rapid Response in District 2, Locals are encouraged to schedule half-day trainings to build and/or strengthen the program within their facilities.

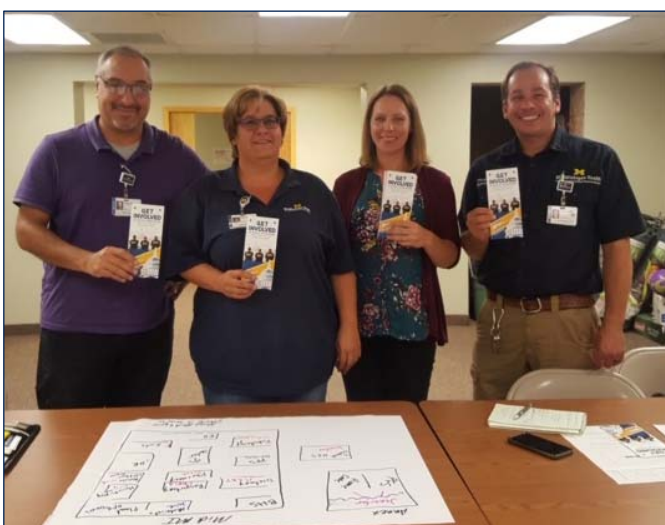


Pictured left to right: Todd George, Jeremy Clayton, Bryan Hudson, Paul Rowden, Paul Winchell, Rodd Layman



USW LU President Rodd Layman

## Rapid Response Trainings Continue in District 2 – by Sue Browne, Rapid Response Coordinator



Pictured above are members from Local 204 in Alpena, Michigan; a healthcare facility where workers are directly impacted by our current “Safe Jobs Now” campaign. This group spent time gaining a better understanding of the program, mapping out their workplace then strategizing steps to build a successful Rapid Response committee.



## USW Free College Benefit for Union Members!

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