

April 2024

Volume 4 - Special Election Edition



# Forged Together

USW 2958 Newsletter



Communications Team:

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feedback

## **ELECTION INFORMATION: A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD TELLER, PHIL KUNTZMAN**



**Election Manual Link**

Scan with your mobile device to read a  
pdf file of the Election Manual

Another election is upon us here at Local 2958 and we need all members help to ensure that our participation will be at an all-time high if at all possible.

The election date is **April 17th** and the times and locations of your polls are as follows:

Times for polls at all three of the Gates at the plant are opening at 6AM to 8AM then reopening at 2PM to 4PM

Gate #1 - North Gate Work groups 3,4,5,6,9,10,11 & Northside Maintenance

Gate #2 - South West Gate Work groups 6,2 and Southside Maintenance

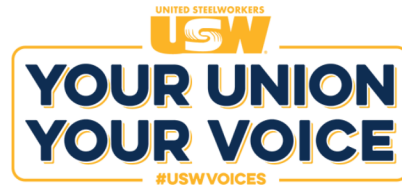
Gate # 3 - South East Gate Work groups 1 & 13

The polls at the Union Hall will be open for members on Vacation, Sick Leave, Workman's Comp and Indiana American Water at 12 Noon to 6PM.

# A Message from the Head Teller

Continued from Cover

There have been a few questions already concerning eligibility, the information on it is located in the Local Union Elections manual on pages 12-13 & 22-23 and there is a QR code link at the beginning of this article to access this information, and in addition, some paper copies have been made available at the Union Hall. Absentee Ballots Requests; according to the Elections Manual all Absentee Ballot requests must be in writing and addressed to Phil Kuntzman 420 N. Main St. Kokomo, Indiana 46901, and signed by the member. This must be received 7 days before the Election date. We look forward and appreciate your assistance with participation in this election as dues-paying active members! If there are any additional requests or information please contact me at (765) 210-7120 from 7AM to 5PM, please leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you for your Solidarity and support!



The USW emphasizes the power of collective action and member input. They are launching a survey for the "Your Union Your Voice" initiative, seeking feedback to shape our national electoral priorities. Past successes, such as pension protections and advocacy against cuts to Social Security and Medicare have come as suggestions and priorities from past surveys. The call to action urges us members to participate in the survey to address their priorities and prepare for future advocacy in Washington, D.C., and state capitals. The importance of relaying your opinions is paramount. Everyone is encouraged to take the survey to help the International Union leadership understand our priorities. Scan the QR code with your mobile device to take the survey and help shape our actions this election cycle.



**POWER TO THE PEOPLE: VOTE!!**

By Staff

Voting in our elections is a fundamental right and a crucial aspect of democratic representation within a union. The importance of voting in these elections lies in the power it gives us to shape the direction of our union and advocate for our rights and interests. By participating in the electoral process, we contribute to the selection of leaders who will address workplace issues and influence policies that impact our working conditions. Voting ensures that we have a say in the decisions that affect our professional lives and fostering a sense of empowerment and solidarity among our members.



# Candidates for Elected Offices

## Executive Board Positions

**President :** Dave Tocco  
Ronnie Catron  
Shawn Gibson  
Lisa Pulsipher  
Joe Fields

**Vice-President:** Steve Leming  
Kacey Gibson

**Financial Secretary:** Bob 'Crack' Crull  
Caitlyn Beck-Martinez

**Treasurer:** Faith Truax  
Dave Hunt

**Recording Secretary:** Zach Keller  
(Elected due to being uncontested)

**Guide:** Troy Johns  
Bryan Ashburn

**Inside Guard:** Willie Jackson  
Mike Chandler

**Outside Guard:** John Beck  
(Elected due to being uncontested)

**Trustees :** (Top 3 Vote Getters will be elected)  
Jim 'Mongo' Elliott  
Eric Gibson  
Marion 'Bud' Labig  
Matt Mince  
Andrew Betzner  
Ty Mullen  
Katt McNeil  
Scott 'Smo' Moore



## Area Grievance Committeeperson Positions

**Work Group 1:** Brandon Thomas  
(Elected due to being uncontested)

**Work Group 2:** Eric Gibson  
(Elected due to being uncontested)

**Work Group 3:** Kasey Mitchell  
(Elected due to being uncontested)

**Work Group 4:** Michael Wright  
(Elected due to being uncontested)

**Work Group 5A :** Scott Pulsipher  
(Elected due to being uncontested)

**Work Group 5B:** Mindy Johnson  
Braedon Wyrick  
Austin Earlywine

**Work Group 6:** Matt Mince  
(Elected due to being uncontested)

**Work Group 8:** Brian Meagher  
(Elected due to being uncontested)

**Work Group 9, 10:** Pat Young  
Henry Young

**Work Group 11:** No Candidates Were Nominated

**Work Group 13:** Kacey Gibson  
(Elected due to being uncontested)



*Candidates for ACG are subject to eligibility requirements as stated in Election Manual, ballot is subject to change based on all candidates in contested races meeting the requirements*

## **Teller Committee:**

**Head Teller: Phil Kuntzman**

Desmon Williams, Mike Barker, Austin Thorpe, Alvah Copeland, Jamie Musgrave, Trey Shane, Kevin Smith, Tammy Avery, Angie Godby, Angie Sholty, Kaylee Walters, Mike Krise, Phil Burks, Justin Pittman

# FORMER PRESIDENT AMBROSE RECEIVES UNITED WAY SERVICE AWARD



Rex Ambrose, a former USW Local 2958 President and current USW International Staff representative serving our region, has been bestowed a Dedicated Service Award from the United Way of Howard & Tipton counties. The United Way released the following statement on Rex's service: "Before assuming his role on the Indiana United Ways Board, Rex Ambrose demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the Board of United Way of Howard & Tipton Counties, assuming multiple roles, eventually culminating in his leadership as Board President. Renowned as a mediator within AFL-CIO circles, Rex adeptly bridged connections between United Way and the labor community, fostering invaluable support for fundraising endeavors and nurturing meaningful relationships. His compassionate approach to addressing challenges and advancing connections has undeniably enriched both the United Way of Howard & Tipton Counties, the broader network of United Ways in our state, and Indiana United Ways as an organization."

## YOUR CURRENT LOCAL OFFICERS & OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT - DAVE TOCCO  
VICE-PRESIDENT - STEVE LEMING  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY - ROBERT CRULL  
TREASURER - JOE FIELDS  
RECORDING SECRETARY - JOHN BECK  
GUIDE - TROY JOHNS  
OUTSIDE GUARD - MARION LABIG  
INSIDE GUARD - WILLIE JACKSON  
TRUSTEE - DESMON WILLIAMS  
TRUSTEE - ZACH KELLER  
TRUSTEE - JIM ELLIOTT

HUMAN RIGHTS CHAIR - WILLIE JACKSON, FIRST SHIFT  
HUMAN RIGHTS ASSISTANT - ROMAN MARTIN, FIRST SHIFT  
HUMAN RIGHTS ASSISTANT - HENRY YOUNG, SECOND SHIFT  
RAPID RESPONSE COORDINATOR, JIM ELLIOTT, FIRST SHIFT  
SAFETY & HEALTH CHAIR - DOUG KLUNE, FIRST SHIFT  
SAFETY & HEALTH (ALT) - SCOTT PULSIPHER, FIRST SHIFT  
SAFETY & HEALTH - DENNIS TUCKER, SECOND SHIFT  
SAFETY & HEALTH (ALT) - KEVIN SMITH, SECOND SHIFT  
SAFETY & HEALTH - KELVIN VAZQUEZ, THIRD SHIFT  
CONTRACTING OUT CHAIR - SCOTT PUSLIPHER, FIRST SHIFT  
CONTRACTING OUT ASST. - KEVIN SMITH, SECOND SHIFT  
SKILLED TRADES CHAIR - JOHN BECK, FIRST SHIFT  
SKILLED TRADES COMMITTEE - DENVER REEVES, FIRST SHIFT

AGC- Brandon Thomas WG 1 - Department 170; first shift  
ASSISTANT- Jeremy Ingold WG 1 - Department 170; third shift  
ASSISTANT -Johnnie Roberts WG 1 - Department 170; first shift

AGC- Eric Gibson WG 2 - Department 190; second shift  
ASSISTANT - Alvah Copeland WG 2 - Department 190; first shift  
ASSISTANT - Jarron Grubb WG 2 - Department 190; third shift

AGC- Kasey Mitchell WG 3 - Department 145; first shift

AGC- Michael Wright, WG 4 - Department 143; first shift  
ASSISTANT- Craig Musgrave WG 4 - Department 143

AGC- Scott Pulsipher WG 5A - Department 154; first shift  
ALT - Zach Keller WG 5A - Department 154; first shift

AGC - Danny Acord WG 5B - Department 156; first shift  
ALT- Trey Shane WG 5B - Department 168; first shift  
ASSISTANT- Braedon Wyrick WG 5B - Department 168; 2nd shift

AGC- Dennis Tucker WG 6 - Department 172; second shift  
ALT- Marion 'Bud' Labig WG 6 - Department 172; first shift  
ASSISTANT- Matt Mince WG 6 - Department 172; first shift

AGC- Pat Young WG 9, 10 - Department 447; first shift  
ASSISTANT- Rob Ooley WG 9, 10 - Department 447; third shift.

AGC- Randy McGuire, WG 8 - Department 427; first shift  
ASSISTANT- Craig Bambrough WG 8 - Department 427; third shift  
ASSISTANT -Doug Herr WG 8 - Department 427; first shift

AGC- Bryan Ashburn WG 11 - Department 297; first shift  
ASST- Adam Henderson WG 11 - 297; first shift

AGC- Kacey Gibson WG 13 - Department 317; first shift

## *Area Grievance Commiteepersons*



# Stand Strong, Stand Together: A Call to Solidarity with Our Spanish Colleagues

By Zach Keller

The challenges faced by our fellow workers in Spain, which Andrew expertly covered in March's issue, resonate deeply with the values we hold dear – fair wages, humane working conditions, and the empowerment of the workforce. As they bravely advocate for these fundamental rights, we recognize the universal significance of their struggle.

In times like these, when the voices of workers need to be amplified, it becomes imperative for unions to stand united. We hope to lend our support to our Spanish counterparts. Our solidarity will undoubtedly bolster their spirits and reinforce the message that workers' rights are not negotiable.

We understand the power of collective action and the impact it can have on fostering positive change. Our hope is that by buying shirts and showing support by putting a sticker on your hardhat and wearing these shirts on Wednesdays, we can show that we stand united with the Spanish workers fighting for their rights. We plan on sending photos of us in our shirts supporting them, and some shirts to our contacts in Spain to show that they are not alone in the fight. This is not just for our Spanish brothers and sisters but for the greater cause of workers' rights worldwide. Your support will not only contribute to their cause but will also strengthen the global movement for fair and just working conditions and show the powers that be here and abroad that we will stand up for what we believe in.

Stickers will be distributed with this issue or you can ask one of the communication team for one. The shirts can be bought at [www.bonfire.com/local-2958-solidarity-with-los-barrrios/](http://www.bonfire.com/local-2958-solidarity-with-los-barrrios/) or by scanning the QR code included in this article with your mobile device. The link is open and the shirts come in many styles and colors, as well as women's and hoodies. They are priced at the cost, and no profits are being made from the sale. If able, please participate and help us show everyone that we will stand united for what we believe in.



## Recent Retirements

Willie E. Oliver Jr.  
WG 5 - Roll Grind/Saw  
Clock # - 25777

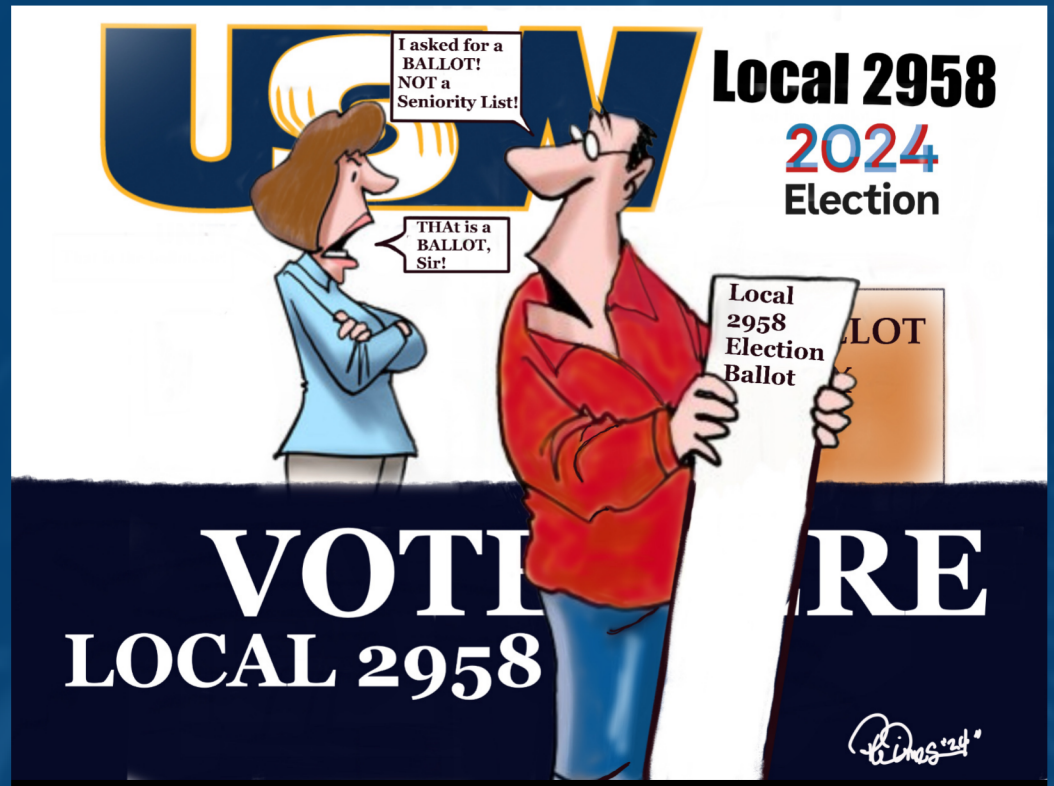
David S. Arnett  
WG 8 - Team Leader  
Clock # - 25540

William "Bill" Pratt  
WG 8 - Machine Repair  
Clock # - 25546

# METAL MAYHEM

LOCAL 2958'S EDITORIAL CARTOON FEATURE

BY PAUL WINES



## LOCAL UNION BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Cardwell Tax Service (David Hunt)

Tax preparation services

Call Heather Hunt at 766-864-0684 with any questions or to schedule an appointment

343 S 00 EW, Kokomo, IN 46902

We are a small family owned business that has been in operation for 50 years. We prepare tax returns for individuals, businesses, farms and rentals! UAW and USW member owned.

Terry Roe

Epoxy painted insulated cups and hardhats



574-229-3998

[nrsroe1@outlook.com](mailto:nrsroe1@outlook.com)

Colby Marner

My name is Colby Marner and I am an Esthetician and Massage Therapist. I run my spa business when I'm not working at Haynes. I have a little studio in downtown Kokomo where I do facials, waxing, lashes, microneedling and massage.

Body Glow on Facebook text 317-855-0595 for booking info

Brandi Tackett

S&B Creations LLC

Website: [www.sbcreations4you@gmail.com](mailto:www.sbcreations4you@gmail.com)  
Facebook group: S&B Creations LLC  
Cell: 765-480-9974 (call or text)

What we do: Custom apparel, graphic design, tumblers, marketing material, laser engraving, keychains, decals, and more.

Danny Shelton

Dumpster rental  
[www.Russivillarentals.com](http://www.Russivillarentals.com)  
765-867-8104

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OUR USW  
BROTHERS & SISTERS

# Next Issue: Union Election Results Issue



We are looking for better ways to communicate happenings within our local, but also help build community amongst our members. We hope you find the content of the newsletter worth reading, and we are always looking for feedback. If anyone has general questions, comments, ideas of topics to cover, side hustles you want to promote, questions for officers, useful information, or even to volunteer, e-mail us at: [usw2958news@gmail.com](mailto:usw2958news@gmail.com)