

# GOLDEN LODGE NEWS

Volume 72, No. 2

Summer 2025

## *GOLDEN LODGE PICNIC* *Sunday, June 29*

10:00 AM—7:00 PM RAIN OR SHINE

\*NO EARLY ENTRANCE\*

Free admission for everyone!



### **Admission Includes:**

Free parking  
Swimming  
Fishing  
1 Free Pop

### **Serving @ Noon-4:00pm**

Hamburgers  
Hot Dogs  
Chips & Water

You can bring your own food  
and beverages for a picnic.

**NO GLASS CONTAINERS!**

Anyone interested in the zip line  
courses should go to the **Wood's  
Tall Timbers Resort** website for  
rules, liability forms and to RSVP  
times and availability.

### **3pm at the Main Lodge**

Door Prize Drawings

50/50 Raffle

Followed by the  
children's games

#### **Additional activities**

Par 3 Golf - \$5 per player

Putt Putt - \$5 per round

Paddle Boats - \$3 per 1/2 hour

*1921 Tall Timber Road NE*

*New Philadelphia, OH 44663*

*Phone 330.602.4000*

<http://www.woodstalltimberresort.com/>

*Email: [info@woodstalltimberlake.com](mailto:info@woodstalltimberlake.com)*

**STAY ON THE SUNNY SIDE OF LIFE**



## SAFETY CORNER



**By Shawn Lindner**

*HSP Fulltime Union  
Safety Representative*

On December 2, 2024, an incident occurred involving an R.G. Smith employee, on #2 Mag at HSP finishing department. Luckily, the contractor recovered from his injuries and returned to work shortly after the incident. Changes were made to the Lock Out Tag Out (LOTO) program to standardize the program in all three plants.

The changes involved a third party taking the old LOTO procedures and converting them into a standardized procedure through a company called Brady Link 360. After the conversion, it is required that the procedures be taken out to the equipment to verify their accuracy. In this instance, gravity of the arms dropping after the air pressure had bled off had been missed in the LOTO procedure. Thus, causing the arms to drop onto the contractor.

On January 29, 2025, an OSHA investigation was opened on Metallus due to a complaint made on January 22, 2025, against R.G. Smith. This complaint referred to the December 2 incident. Since Metallus was the host employer to the contractor, and due to the associated details OSHA determined the need to investigate.

Upon OSHA's investigation, they determined and cited three different OSHA regulation violations, all three pertaining to LOTO. The company was cited for one serious and two repeat serious violations equating to \$171,664.00. OSHA, Union representatives and the company met for an informal meeting to discuss the citations. All three parties are still in discussion.

The purpose of this article is *not* to bash the company. The purpose is for awareness and the need for safety. I am sure we all agree that this money could be better spent elsewhere. Which is why it is important that we all take part in safety. For example, if someone is locking out a piece of equipment using the new Brady procedure, and it is wrong? Speak up! Fixing these procedures now will prevent injuries and potential fatalities down the road. The company has hired many new employees, and some of the experienced employees are now leaving. "Triable Knowledge" does not help the new hires, correct procedures do.

New hires do not have the time to gain that triable knowledge when those with the experience are leaving and retiring.

Let us be honest, the people entering information into these LOTO procedures **DO NOT KNOW** this equipment! **YOU** the operator, **YOU** the electrician, **YOU** the maintainer do! Please speak up! I have had multiple conversations with union brothers and sisters and our salaried counterparts regarding that safety costs too much and is going to put us out of a job. Many employees commented that the new LOTO procedures take too long and that we must keep the lights on and get product out the door. Some feel that cutting corners and "hurrying up to get it done" mentality is going to save the company money.

However, one fatality or severe injury costs the company millions. So, ask yourself this; is taking that shortcut to save a minute or two, and taking the risk that you or your coworker becomes seriously injured or worse, worth the couple of minutes? Is it worth taking the chance of your family not having you around or is it worth you being out of work with the bills adding up? Are you really saving the company money? The message from the executives in corporate, during the standups in the auditorium, has been for employees to take the time to lock out the equipment the correct way, take the time to fill out the checklists correctly. Which means to verify and initial each step that has been locked out and for operators or the designated person, to try out and initial each step to confirm zero energy. Corporate has taken consideration, planned, expect and budgeted for the extra downtime for these safety improvements.

Lastly, during the OSHA informal, Todd Jensen (acting Area Director of OSHA) and Nick Young (USW Technician for International Environmental, Health, and Safety), both recognized the improvements in safety at Metallus. Both encouraged Metallus to continue working with Local 1123 to improve safety in the plants. Please let your Union Safety Representatives know of any safety concerns in your departments. Thank you and stay safe!!

# Contract Surveys & Grievances



**By Willis McCoy**  
*President*

The steel mill contract surveys have been available for over a month now. For those of you that have taken the time to fill them out; I thank you. If you have not done so yet, please find some time to do so. We are listening and compiling the data. The upcoming contract negotiations will be here before you know it.

On the steel side of things, business has been steady, and orders have shown a slight increase as well. At the Harrison plant, the Automated Grind Line (AGL) has ramped up to two shifts/16 hours per day. They are closing in on their target output. At the Faircrest plant, the bloom reheat furnace project continues to be on schedule.

Safety continues to be at the forefront. In April, there were zero life-threatening or life-altering injuries. However, there has been an uptick in incidents since April. The Union and the Company have made significant strides regarding safety. I understand not everyone agrees with what is being done. The goal is and will always be to get everyone home and injury and incident free and the end of each workday. To that point, the Company has allowed the Union to use coaching moments for violations or misunderstandings associated with the new safety practices or programs. There have been some cases of write-ups for willful violations of safety rules, particularly after those members that have been previously coached.

Two areas of concern for safety are PPE and the LOTOTO Brady system. To avoid receiving disciplinary action (DA), you must adhere to the safety rules. Wear your appropriate PPE for your work area or task. Some examples include wearing harnesses for fall protection when working at heights over forty-eight inches, face shields for grinding and torching, along with coats and gloves as required.

The Brady system for LOTOTO has been in place in some areas for over a year now. LOTOTO is not just a safety responsibility for you, it is for your coworkers' safety as well. One thing I have not received is a grievance writing someone up for being safe, following protocols and procedures.

Unfortunately, there has been a rise in grievances and discharges. The bulk of these have been associated with the drug and alcohol policy. If you have an accident at work, you will be sent to Medical for an evaluation. If the company has any reasonable suspicions, such as odors, falling asleep, or disappearing from the job; you will be sent for an evaluation.

If you test "positive" and depending on the circumstances, you may be afforded an opportunity to complete a drug and alcohol program. This employee assistance program and the terms to the random testing to which you will be subjected to, will last three years. During that time, if you violate the rules, you will be terminated.

## GOLDEN LODGE NEWS

GOLDEN LODGE NEWS STAFF

Willis McCoy, Managing Editor

Ron Roberts, Associate Editor

Chris Tunney, New Media /Associate Editor

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USW Golden Lodge Local 1123

1234 Harrison Ave. S.W.

Canton, OH 44706-1520

Office 330.454.6137

Fax 330.454.3461

Email: [golden@neo.rr.com](mailto:golden@neo.rr.com)

[www.facebook.com/groups/uswlocal1123](http://www.facebook.com/groups/uswlocal1123)

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HEAT EXHAUSTION	OR	HEAT STROKE
Faint or dizzy	OR	Throbbing headache, confusion
Excessive sweating	OR	No sweating
Cool, pale, clammy skin	OR	Body temperature above 103° Red, hot, dry skin
Nausea or vomiting	OR	Nausea or vomiting
Rapid, weak pulse	OR	Rapid, strong pulse
Muscle cramps	OR	May lose consciousness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Get to a cooler, air conditioned place</li> <li>Drink water if fully conscious</li> <li>Take a cool shower or use cold compresses</li> </ul>	<b>CALL 9-1-1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Move person to cooler place</li> <li>Cool using cool cloths or bath</li> <li>Do not give anything to drink</li> </ul>

# 2025 USW Convention Recap

More than 2,000 members from across the United States, Canada and the Caribbean spent four days charting the future of our union and recommitting themselves to the solidarity that powers the union at the USW's triennial constitutional convention earlier this month.

International President David McCall opened the convention by calling on union members to fight back against wealthy elites who want to silence workers across North America.

"To turn back the tide of economic injustice and corporate greed, we need to truly be all in," McCall said.

"We can hold nothing back, and we need every member to join in the fight – for as long as it takes."

In debating resolutions rang-

ing from fair trade to civil and human rights, delegates shared their struggles and victories in the fight against corporate greed.

They also heard from trade unionists from other countries and a panel of federal workers who warned of broad attacks on workers' rights coming out of Washington, D.C.

While billionaires like Elon Musk may be emboldened under the current administration, AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler declared that with 71% of Ameri-

cans supportive of unions, union members are in a "generational moment" to build the labor movement.

The way forward is going all in on solidarity. Delegates demonstrated what that looks like by taking action right from the convention floor by calling their members of Congress to demand passage of the bipartisan Protect America's Workforce Act.

Delegates left Las Vegas fired up and ready to carry that energy forward into their workplaces and communities. "Being all in isn't a one-time action – and it isn't a bet," McCall said.

"It's our way of operating, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year." You can find full coverage of our convention, including photos, videos, resolutions, and more, on the



*USW International President David McCall*



## Scan the QR code for the contract survey

*Leading up to this year's Basic Labor Agreement talks, this survey is an important way for you (active steel members) to let your bargaining committee know what changes you would like to see in your contract. The committee will review these surveys, and with the assistance of our Union staff, we will formulate proposals and bargaining priorities. If you don't want to use the QR code, stop down at the Union Hall to pick up a paper copy of the survey. The Golden Lodge: 1234 Harrison Ave SW Canton, Ohio 44706 330.454.6137*

# Redmond: “We Know the Way Forward”

Longtime USW leader Fred Redmond urged union members on Monday to meet the growing challenges they now face with a new commitment to organizing and mobilizing workers.

The current environment can make workers feel discouraged about the future, but labor leaders understand how to create the future they want, because they’ve done it before, said Redmond, the secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO who served as USW international vice president from 2006 to 2022.

“Attacks on everything that we stand for have been relentless,” Redmond said as he ticked off a long list of ways in which the Trump administration has made life more difficult for working people in recent weeks, from firing vast swaths of workers to gutting essential federal agencies.

“We are the voice of those who, today, feel hopeless.” The answer to that feeling, he said, is to organize and energize a new generation of workers across North America to grow the labor movement and build a future that prioritizes the rights of workers and allows them to exercise their collective strength.

“If we are leading with our values, there isn’t a more core value than the right to collectively bargain,” he said, noting that workers across the United States, Canada and Mexico must stand together

against growing anti-union attacks that are meant to divide them. “It all starts with solidarity. Real solidarity that crosses borders.”

Unions like the USW have always faced threats to their very existence from greedy corporate leaders and anti-union politicians, Redmond said, but they have persevered, through the decades, because of their unwavering unity and solidarity, and they can do it again.

“Every time they try to knock us down, we get back up, stronger,” Redmond said.

*“The future is ours to shape.”*



*We know the way forward.”*



*Metallus Co-ops Graduation ~ Congratulations to all!*

High schoolers were hired, trained, graduated, & offered jobs. Skilled trades are being refurbished. From left to right: Jaren Lindon, Ethan Swigert, Logan Schmucker, Dylan Gehring, Saige Day, Gavin Knisley, Trenton Chaplin, Connor Stewart, Cody Hickenbottom, Kapone Krupp, and Connor Fry.



*The following members of the Golden Lodge have passed away and Bibles have been presented to their families.*

**WILLIAM P. OTTO, JR.**, Age 70, Dept. 753, passed away July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Brother Otto joined the Union in 1971 and retired in 2002.

**CECIL A. BARR**, Age 84, Dept. 179, passed away April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Brother Barr joined the Union in 1959 and retired in 1994.

**JAMES E. RALSTON**, Age 87, Dept. 181, passed away February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025. Brother Ralston joined the Union in 1963 and retired in 1992.

**WILLIE A. HUNTER, SR.**, Age 79, Dept. 98, passed away March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Brother Hunter joined the Union in 1965 and retired in 2009.

**TEDDY C. BOWERS, SR.**, Age 84, Dept. 751, passed away March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Brother Bowers joined the Union in 1959 and retired in 1990.

**PHILLIP M. WHITE**, Age 74, Dept. 750, passed away March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Brother White joined the Union in 2004 and retired in 2016.

**BOBBY E. BLANKENSHIP**, Age 87, Dept. 132, passed away March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Brother Blankenship joined the Union in 1959 and retired in 1994.

**DONALD J. SCHWEITZER**, Age 73, Dept. 199, passed away March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Brother Schweitzer joined the Union in 1972 and retired in 2002.

**EMIL G. CINDEA**, Age 91, Dept. 751, passed away March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Brother Cindea joined the Union in 1965 and retired in 1998.

**BECKY D. EINSIG**, Age 65, Dept. 752, passed away March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025. Sister Einsig joined the Union in 2000 and retired in 2023.

**PHILLIP C. YODER**, Age 75, Dept. WST, passed away March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025. Brother Yoder joined the Union in 1974 and retired in 2004.

**WILLIAM J. WORKMAN**, Age 87, Dept. 132, passed away March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Brother Workman joined the Union in 1966 and retired in 2000.

**KARL NEY**, Age 83, Dept. 189, passed away April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Brother Ney joined the Union in 1964 and retired in 2000.

**ROBERT W. ROUSH**, Age 75, Dept. 13, passed away April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Brother Roush joined the Union in 1969 and retired in 2002.

**DONALD A. GODDARD**, Age 82, Dept. 182, passed away April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Brother Goddard joined the Union in 1966 and retired in 1998.

**RALPH W. LAB**, Age 87, Dept. 753, passed away April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Brother Lab joined the Union in 1968 and retired in 1998.

**SHIRLEY RUCKER**, Age 78, Dept. 190, passed away April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Sister Rucker joined the Union in 1974 and retired in 2006.

**NATHANIEL ARMSTEAD**, Age 77, Dept. 98, passed away April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Brother Armstead joined the Union in 1966 and retired in 1988.

**BRENDA J. GRAVES**, Age 83, Dept. 97, passed away May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025. Sister Graves joined the Union in 1964 and retired in 1994.

**BILLY G. PERKINS**, Age 88, Dept. 07, passed away May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Brother Perkins joined the Union in 1955 and retired in 1995.

**EARL W. MCKIMM**, Age 82, Dept. 120, passed away May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Brother McKimm joined the Union in 1964 and retired in 2004.

**JEROME F. MCCLOUD**, Age 79, Dept. 72, passed away May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Brother McCloud joined the Union in 1964 and retired in 1999.

**RAMON P. YINGLING**, Age 79, Dept. 192, passed away May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Brother Yingling joined the Union in 1964 and retired in 2001.

## Just a friendly reminder

Any Metallus (steel) retirees or their spouses approaching 65 years of age and starting Medicare are eligible to enroll with the Alight Retiree Exchange. You can utilize the \$100/month \$1200/year Healthcare Reimbursement Account. You *must* use Alight to select your Medicare Supplement or Advantage plans. If you switch or make changes to your plan *without* using the Alight Retiree Exchange, you will *forfeit* the \$1200/year and will not be allowed to re-enroll with them. Any questions? Just give us a call at the Union hall 330.454.6137 Monday-Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm.

# What you need to know if you get injured at work!

**By Adam Holland**

I would like to start by explaining how Metallus handles work related injuries.

Metallus is a self-insured company.

Which means, they somehow earned the right to manage their own claims, instead of the State. Ault-Comp is the company's third-party administrator (TPA).

They are the ones who oversee all work-related injury claims. They pay the bills, allow treatment, and allow or disallow claims. So, if you get injured at work, even if it is minor, we suggest that you report it to your supervisor.

It is especially important to get it documented. They will probably send you to medical. This is good as well. The more documentation stating that you had an accident at work and was injured, the better.

While at medical, or your supervisor's office, make sure all affected body parts are listed on the paperwork. This would also pertain to the hospital. They should be filling out a First Report of Injury (FROI), so make sure to include all the affected body parts on this as well.

Additional injuries from the industrial accident can be added later but it is better to get them documented initially. When you are asked to sign a medical release form for a work-related injury, you only must provide a limited release form pertaining to the injured body part or parts. We suggest not signing a blanket release form.

So now you have been to your boss, medical and or the hospital, now **see your own doctor of choice!**

In the State of Ohio, this is your right as an injured worker. Do not let them tell you differently. Also contact the Union Hall so we can have you sign an R-2, which allows us to represent you and help with your claim.

Also, in the State of Ohio, as an injured worker, you have one (1) year from the date of injury to file a claim with the Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC).

If any disputes arise with a claim between the company and the injured worker, it will be referred to the Industrial Commission (IC) of Ohio. They settle disputes in workers' compensation claims.

To summarize, if you get hurt at work, report it to your supervisor, go to medical, call the Union Hall and see a doctor of your own choosing.

## Coming Events

### Steward Classes

2nd Wednesday of the month

9:00 am / 4:30 pm

### Regular Union Meeting

3rd Wednesday of the month

4:30 pm

### July 4 Independence Day\*

Paid Holiday

### September 2 Labor Day\*

Paid Holiday

*\*Union negotiated benefit*

## Recent Retirees

*Congratulations to the following members who have retired and will now enjoy their Union negotiated retiree pension & healthcare benefits.*

*Patricia Hostetler      Christopher Baer*

*Alfred Baylis      Kenneth Rennie*

*Daniel Harmon      Douglas Marteney*

*Michael Hardwick      Richard Seward*

*Mark Robinson      Jeffrey Dugan*

*Shaun McMyler      Scott Lauer*

*Donald Lint      Thomas Wallace*

*Eric Hawk      Martin Hazel*

*Jeffrey Grove      Robert Swonger*

*Jason Anthony      Sheryl Cassidy*

*Dean Potts      Kenneth Behringer*

**SAFETY ARRIVE SAFE  
COMES WORK SAFE  
FIRST GO HOME SAFE**

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# Don't be Fooled by the Smoke Screens

**By Bill Pienta**

Having just returned from the *SOAR President* SOAR Conference and USW Convention, I could easily write an article that would fill many pages, but I will focus on a few critical issues that are important to us.

At the SOAR Conference, the delegates heard from Jessica LaPointe, the President of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) Council 220, representing employees of the Social Security Administration (SSA).

I had the fortunate opportunity to have lunch with Jessica, where we continued our discussion about the ongoing dismantling of Social Security offices across the country. Anyone who has tried to contact a representative from the SSA can attest to how difficult it can be.

I was informed that this situation would only worsen with the massive reduction of employees at that agency caused by the imposed layoffs. The inability to speak with someone for assistance will only increase our frustration, and it could lead to a solution favored by those who have long opposed Social Security: "PRIVATIZATION."

I would like to share my recent experience with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding a letter I received. The letter informed me about a change in a benefit I was receiving, but did not specify which benefit it referred to.

It instructed me to contact CMS for clarification. After a lengthy wait, I finally spoke with a representative. After I read the letter to him, he indicated that he did not have any information

about my issue, but reassured me that it didn't seem too serious. When I asked him if he was concerned about the layoffs, he replied that he wasn't worried because he was a contracted employee. Although he could not assist me, he assured me he would keep his job.

During that call, he inadvertently changed my preference regarding the sharing of medical information without my authorization. What purpose did he serve other than to frustrate callers who needed help?

Afterward, I received another letter from CMS notifying me of this change in preference, which I did not authorize. This prompted me to call again. After waiting 34 minutes, I finally spoke with a government employee, rather than a sub-contract employee, who corrected the error and provided answers to my initial question.

What does my experience with the CMS have to do with the thousands of employees laid off at the Social Security Administration? My concern is the heightened frustration that recipients like me will face when trying to get help – all in the name of reducing costs.

***Don't be fooled. Stay aware of this smokescreen:***

The current federal administration isn't just looking to cut costs; it aims to privatize Social Security. Privatization removes the security from Social Security. If we don't speak up and fight back, we risk ending up with a system that goes against our true needs

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## ***We have a new addition to the Hall, a Workers Memorial Bell.***

Many USW locals across the country have something to honor their members and all those who have lost their lives while on the job or later due to workplace related illnesses/exposures. Metallus donated the bell along with the labor and materials for the stand it resides on. Our welding apprentice class honed their skills while fabricating the stand. The carpenter shop assisted with the mounting of the bell to the stand. Thank you Metallus for such a kind gesture. This bell will forever be a fixture of USW L.U. 1123 as we **Mourn for the Dead and Fight for the Living.**  
Sean Els

