# GENEWS

Volume 72, No. 4 Winter 2025





## SAFETY CORNER



#### By Mike Henderson

FSP USR

Holiday Greetings Brothers and Sisters! At this point of the year, many of you have gone or will be going through the 2025 version of Safety Standups. This year, we have scaled down the number of members in each session to provide a more personal delivery and ability to ask and answer questions. This

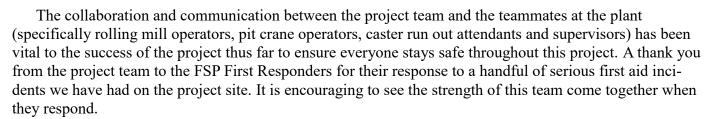
allows us to bring the training to you. The hazard identification and walking through a ZIP form are crucial. This will provide all of our members the training, tools, and ability to recognize and eliminate or lower the severity of the dangers that we face going about our normal workday at Metallus.

Faircrest has completed its yearly shutdown. We completed a large list of repairs and upgrades to the equipment vital to the process of making some of the best steel in the world. During this week and a half timeframe with all of our people and the huge number of outside contractors, doing some very difficult tasks, Metallus only had one incident that needed minor first aid treatment. That is a tremendous accomplishment when you look at all the chances for something to go wrong. Well done to all involved.

The Bloom Reheat Furnace project is going well here at Faircrest. I still feel very fortunate to be part of the Union involvement with a project of this magnitude that should be a great benefit to us and the Company for many years moving forward.

## Fun construction facts:

- 7271 cubic yards of concrete poured
- 5132 tons of rebar used
- Approximately 25 miles of wire pulled
- Received over 250 trucks of material on site
- Over 275,000 man hours on the project through Mid November.



We have had three full time hourly teammates involved in the project this year (Matt Weick, operations, Jason Tyler, Electrical Maintainer, and Rodney Gerber, Mechanical Maintainer). These guys have been involved in Factory Acceptance Testing, design discussions, and daily construction activities to help ensure



this new asset is set up for a smooth integration into existing operations. The rolling mill has been sending operators and maintainers to the project team for the past month as teammates rotate through day shift so they can start training now.

Commissioning activities for the water treatment plant will start in November. The handling and combustion areas will began commissioning in December. We are working diligently to get this new furnace operational for the Faircrest Plant.



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## Crane safety is everyone's job!

#### By Timothy Johnson

HSP USR

2025 has been the year of overhead crane incidents it seems with 15 near-misses and one injury as of writing this article. And several more

episodes each month. It concerns me that we may be just moments away from a serious incident or fatality involving overhead cranes.

Some of the events that have shown up have been lost loads, insufficient rigging, cranes/loads striking equipment and guarding. There have also been instances of loads over workers and people being too close to a suspended load. We have even had a couple instances of items falling from the cranes and crane failures, either brakes not holding the load or cables breaking and unspooling from the drum.

Cranes are a very big part of our jobs. We use them every day and they are a crucial tool in our workplace. We are hoping to raise awareness so that we don't take them for granted or become too comfortable around them. There is some new/updated crane training coming soon. Several people have received classes to give this training and will be starting soon. There are also some changes as to how we store spare remote boxes. Spare boxes will be kept in lockers. There will be tags for when rail stops are on the rails and spare boxes will become part of the lockout when working on cranes.

## Key points to remember:

- Pre-op checks: make sure to do a good pre op check and report any problems immediately.
- Park cranes so that regular foot traffic does not walk under the hook. We use a lot of below the hook devices and ALL of them are considered a load. Anything attached to the hook of a crane is a load, no matter how small it is.
- Do not side pull. When a side pull happens it causes the cables to overlap the grooves in the cable drum and puts the cables at risk of damage. If a side pull happens, the crane must be inspected immediately afterwards.

## **GOLDEN LODGE NEWS**

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- Pinch points: the more you keep your hands and body away from the load, the lower your chances of being in a pinch point. Pinch points can occur at any time a load is being moved in ANY direction.
- Inspect ALL rigging components, make sure the rigging is sufficient for the load you are lifting and that it is not worn or damaged.
- Stay alert and aware of your surroundings. Before moving the load, make sure your path is clear and free of debris and any trip hazards. Watch for mobile equipment and pedestrians to enter the area.
  - Do not carry loads over people. Lastly, use no touch tooling whenever possible.

It has been talked about and talked about. I am finally seeing more no touch tooling available on the work floor. It's an adjustment from what many of us have done in the past but good from an ergonomics and safety aspect. If you don't have no touch tooling available, please reach out to your Safety Committee Reps and USR's. According to OSHA statistics, there is an average of 42 crane related deaths per year in the USA. 37% of those are due to being crushed by loads, 27% are due to dropped loads, and 12% are due to fall from height. We need to do our best to not have any of our brothers and sisters become one of these statistics.

Stay alert. Stay cautious. Be safe.

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## 2025 Veterans' breakfast, business update

**By Willis McCoy** 

President

Our Veterans Breakfast was a resounding success. held in honor of the men and women who have bravely served our country. The event brought together veterans, community members, and supporters for a morning of camaraderie, reflection, and gratitude.

Thank you to our Executive Board, Kitchen Committee, Boy Scout and Cub Scout Troup 16, Richard Biebenbach and American Legion Post 16 Honor Guard, Mr. Mikes Catering, the Veterans Service Commission of Stark County, Metallus and the Timken Company, Victoria Warner and Mission BBQ, Jon Anderson, Mallory's Minions and Bill Webler.

This memorable occasion would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors. Their commitment and contributions ensured that our veterans felt appreciated and honored. We extend our deepest gratitude to each sponsor for making this event a reality and for their continued dedication to our community.

We look forward to continuing this tradition in the years to come. Thank you again to all our sponsors for their unwavering generosity and to everyone who participated in making this event a success.

## **Business and Contract Negotiations**

As far as business goes I can tell you that the Faircrest, Gambrinus and Harrison projects are still ongoing and are still on schedule.

As you are all aware we have been in contract negotiations since August. On October 3<sup>rd</sup> we reached a tentative agreement. Twelve informational meetings were held; a vote was taken on October 30<sup>th</sup>. That tentative agreement was turned down. A second TA will be voted on December 18, 2025. Stay tuned.



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

**GAIL R. HERRING,** Age 75 Dept. 75, passed away May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Sister Herring joined the Union in 1975 and retired in 2001

**DAVID W. MOYE,** Age 81, Dept. 68, passed away July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Brother Moye joined the Union in 1961 and retired in 1996.

**WILLIAM E. PETERS,** Age 95, Dept. 91, passed away September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Brother Peters joined the Union in 1967 and retired in 1994.

**BRIAN K. BOWERSOX,** Age 66, Dept. 752, passed away September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Brother Bowersox joined the Union in 1988 and retired in 2021.

**CHARLES LINK,** Age 83, Dept. 68, passed away September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Brother Link joined the Union in 1960 and retired in 2000.

**WILLIAM J. SCHANDEL,** Age 89, Dept. 135, passed away September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Brother Schandel joined the Union in 1959 and retired in 1997.

**JACK M. HALTER**, Age 92, Dept. 79, passed away September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Brother Halter joined the Union in 1955 and retired in 1994.

**CARL M. MAZZOCCA,** Age 93, Dept. 21, passed away October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025. Brother Mazzocca joined the Union in 1964 and retired in 1994.

**PATRICIA J. STOUT,** Age 85, Dept. 75, passed away October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025. Sister Stout joined the Union in 1969 and retired in 1999.

**HOWARD J. BOYD**, Age 93, Dept. 80, passed away October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Brother Boyd joined the Union in 1955 and retired in 1990.

**WILLIAM G. MCCUTCHAN,** Age 92, Dept. 189, passed away October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Brother McCutchan joined the Union in 1952 and retired in 1994.

**WILLIAM A. NORRIS,** Age 86, Dept. 91, passed away October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Brother Norris joined the Union in 1966 and retired in 1996.

**ROBERT G. MARTIN,** Age 71, Dept. 182, passed away October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Brother Martin joined the Union in 1985 and retired in 2016.

**ROBERT RUSSELL, JR.,** Age 80, Dept. 754, passed away November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025. Brother Russell joined the Union in 1968 and retired in 1998.

**LEWIS E. TOWNSLEY,** Age 77, Dept. 185, passed away November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025. Brother Townsley joined the Union in 1969 and retired in 2005.

**LARRY G. FLOYD,** Age 82, Dept. 59, passed away November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Brother Floyd joined the Union in 1973 and retired in 2005.

**LOIS A. TOLES,** Age 95, Dept. 190, passed away November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Sister Toles joined the Union in 1977 and retired in 2007.

**JAMES A WINKHART,** Age 76, Dept. 91, passed away November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Brother Winkhart joined the Union in 1968 and retired in 2009.

**GARY W. ZIMMER,** Age 80, Dept. 135, passed away November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Brother Zimmer joined the Union in 1964 and retired in 1999.

**GEORGE M. JONES, SR.,** Age 76, Dept. 126, passed away November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Brother Jones joined the Union in 2004 and retired in 2015.

**LEROY THOMPSON,** Age 91, Dept. 86, passed away November 21, 2025. Brother Thompson joined the Union in 1964 and retired in 2002.

**DUANE E. HOUSEHOLDER,** Age 77, Dept. 86, passed away November 27, 2025. Brother Householder joined the Union in 1969 and retired in 2007.

**HILLIARD SANDERS,** Age 84, Dept 79, passed away December 7, 2025. Brother Sanders joined the Union in 1959 and retired 1999.



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Approved: Golden Lodge Executive Board, Exclusive Union Affairs





## 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

**December 24-25-26 Christmas** 

& January 1 New Years\*

Paid Holidays

\*Union negotiated benefit

## **Recent Retirees**

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

Steven Cigich Joseph Dolph Eric Raine Steven Holbert Jeffrey Reed Carole Steffl Martha Maurer Marta Minder Amos Spalding Lisha Watson David Medley David Elkins William Braham Gina Wright Michael Vranich Steven Swiney Melissa Adelman James Knebl Jeffrey Sanders Allen Essig Michael Reichard John Knerr Mark Hawthorne Jerry Dietz. Helen Kerns Jason Keenan Thomas Eshelman

# Paying it forward during this Season of Giving

Metallus retiree Dave Laher and his wife Ruby collect toys for tots and items for the homeless. This past year, they have accumulated \$3000+ worth of items for our area's local charities. The Domestic Violence Project, Inc. <a href="www.dvpi.org">www.dvpi.org</a>, and Refuge of Hope <a href="https://refugeofhope.org/">https://refugeofhope.org/</a> received their generous donations. Thank you to everyone who helped and volunteered for all these worthy causes this Holiday season.

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# **New USW Leaders Prepare to Take Office**

(Pittsburgh) – An historic new slate of officers will take over the leadership of the United Steelworkers (USW) in March following the union's regular four-year nomination and election process that took place this fall. Roxanne Brown, currently serving as USW International Vice President at Large, will be sworn in March 1, 2026, as the union's next International President. Brown replaces David McCall, who did not seek reelection, having served as USW International President since September 2023.

"Roxanne has devoted her life's work to advancing the interests of working families, fighting for fair wages, affordable health care, dignified retirements and strong labor rights," said McCall. "I can think of no one better qualified to lead our union as we navigate this unprecedented era of largely unchecked corporate greed." "I am beyond humbled and honored to serve as the USW's next President," said Brown. "I am committed to the work ahead and pledge to live up to the trust our members have shown in me. Together, we will build an economy that works for all of us, a system that rewards workers rather than corporations, and a bright future for generations to come." Brown will be the USW's tenth International President and the first woman to lead the union.

Also re-elected to new four-year terms were Myles Sullivan as Secretary-Treasurer; Emil Ramirez - Vice President (Administration); Kevin Mapp - Vice President (Human Affairs); Marty Warren - National Director for Canada; and Luis Mendoza as Vice President, as well as Directors for each of the union's twelve districts.

Amber Miller will take Brown's role as International Vice President at Large. Miller for the past six years has directed the USW's grassroots, nonpartisan Rapid Response network. "I had the pleasure of working with Amber for a long time, watching her grow from a young activist serving as President of her local in northwest

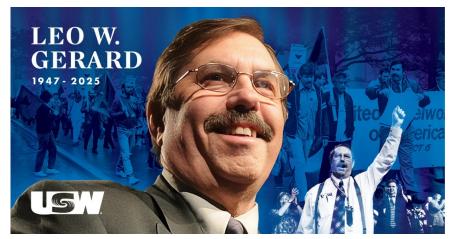
Ohio to an extremely capable leader who will be an essential part of moving our union forward," said McCall.

USW National Director for Canada Marty Warren congratulated the new and re-elected officers, noting that the union's long tradition of democracy is what has helped ensure its strong leadership.

"Our union is based on the principle that all workers, regardless of industry, gender, race or any other consideration, deserve a voice. It's a simple idea and yet one that is constantly under attack. I'm proud to be a part of a union that lives this ideal every day, and I know that under our new leadership, we will continue empowering workers across North America to stand strong in their workplaces and their communities."



Roxanne Brown



Leo W. Gerard, who led the United Steelworkers (USW) as the union's International President for more than 18 years, died on Sunday, Sept. 21, 2025.

Gerard, who retired in July 2019 as the longest-tenured president in the USW's history, served the union in numerous leadership roles throughout a career spanning more than 50 years, which began at the age of 18 at a nickel smelter in his hometown of Sudbury, Ontario.

"Leo Gerard spent his entire life fighting for workers across the world, and his impact on the USW, and the global labor movement, has been immeasurable," said USW International President David McCall. "He inspired countless other workers to carry on the fight for justice and fairness. He will be missed, but we intend to honor his legacy by continuing that work."

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