

# FORGED

ELECTRONIC EDITION

# TOGETHER

USW Local 2958 Newsletter

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2025

**NEW  
DESIGN**  
TAKE A LOOK



UNITED STEELWORKERS  
**USW**  
VETERANS OF STEEL  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Issue 15



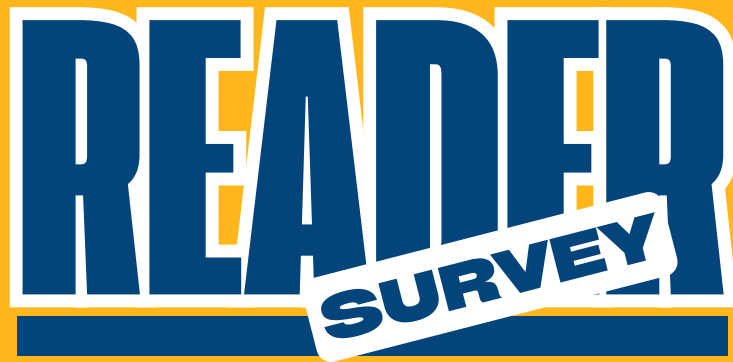
Zach Keller, Andrew Betzner, & Paul Reehling  
Contributors: Eric Gibson, Kurtis Cox, Paul Wines,  
& Joe Fields



## Forged Together Newsletter Feedback

Please click link to give us  
valuable feedback

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, articles they would like to submit, hobbies they want to highlight, 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)



## Raffle Results

September 2025 -

**Mitchell Smith**

*(not present, prize rolled over)*



October 2025 -

**Mike Smith**

*(not present, prize rolled over)*



"MAKE THE SCENE, AND MAYBE LEAVE WITH GREEN"



# UPCOMING EVENTS



Happy Thanksgiving  
 Union Hall  
**CLOSED**  
 NOVEMBER 27 & 28

Merry Christmas  
 Union Hall  
**CLOSED**  
 DECEMBER 22 -26

**MONTHLY MEETING**  
 NOVEMBER 20  
 7:30AM  
 1:00PM  
 3:30PM

**MONTHLY MEETING**  
 DECEMBER 18  
 7:30AM  
 1:00PM  
 3:30PM

Kids Christmas PARTY  
 DECEMBER 13  
 2PM - 4PM  
 AT  
 UNION HALL



Jingle AND Mingle



Adult Christmas Party  
 DECEMBER 6  
 5PM - 10PM  
 VFW HALL -  
 920 N. WASHINGTON ST.  
 CATERING BY WOLFES

TICKETS AVAILABLE BY CONTACTING CHRISTMAS COMMITTEE -  
 KATT MCNEIL  
 DANNY ACORD  
 YOLONDA MOTE  
 ASHLEY JOHNSON  
 KENNY CLARK  
 HENRY YOUNG

**\$5** *get YOUR TICKETS*

**UNITED STEELWORKERS NEXT GEN**  
 NOVEMBER 1  
 1:00PM

**UNITED STEELWORKERS WOS WOMEN OF STEEL**  
 NOVEMBER 15  
 1:00PM

**UNITED STEELWORKERS NEXT GEN**  
 DECEMBER 6  
 1:00PM

**UNITED STEELWORKERS WOS WOMEN OF STEEL**  
 DECEMBER 20  
 1:00PM

## Free Veteran Event

Thursday, November 13, 2025 | 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

UAW 685 Hall, 929 E. Hoffer St., Kokomo

Lunch Provided

All veterans are invited to this free event offering on-site help with VA and state benefits, housing and financial assistance, mental health referrals, legal help, job and education resources, haircuts, flu shots, food and clothing referrals, and more.

Giveaways and door prizes will be available.

More info:

Angela Ciski – 765-513-8504

Debbie Norris – 765-457-4357 ext. 1006



As a token of appreciation, all our USW Local 2958 Veterans will receive a car coaster and hardhat sticker. If you did not get one, please contact the union hall, or Vets of Steel Coordinator Jim Elliott



THANK YOU FOR SERVING OUR COUNTRY  
★ & ★  
PROTECTING OUR Freedom



The bible states, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:3) No free dinner, t-shirt, or trinket could begin to repay the debt our nation owes you and all the other brave men and women who have made this promise to our nation.



**A RECOGNITION AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE  
TO OUR LOCAL 2958 VETERANS**

Billy G. Bowens Jr.  
 Scott A. Deeter  
 Johnnie A. Davis  
 Marion "Bud" Labig  
 Jeffrey S. Mullen  
 Kenneth L. Gregory  
 Steven A. Phillips  
 Todd M. Ronk  
 William C. Gosney Jr.  
 David F. Diedrick  
 Carlo D. Tina  
 Christopher J. Dybalski  
 Michael E. Smith  
 Leslie W. Shelley  
 Jim L. Johnson  
 Brian S. Bennett  
 Danny M. Keating Jr.  
 Jeff A. Moss  
 Daniel K. Lewis  
 John M. Beck  
 Cirio R. Tina  
 Kenneth E. Clark  
 Michael R. Smith  
 Danny R. Swise  
 Brandon M. Thomas  
 James R. Elliott

Jason L. Hileman  
 Dennis E. Vondersaar Jr.  
 Phillip R. Meyers Jr.  
 Jay M. Courtney  
 Melvin A. McNeil  
 Scott D. Shook  
 Michael A. Pohlman  
 Glenn D. Johnson  
 Johnny C. Roberts  
 Jeremy L. Conaway  
 Paul E. Wines  
 Henry Young, Jr.  
 Ryan K. Bowland  
 Kevin T. Buscher  
 Michael P. Payne  
 Galen E. Penn  
 Travis W. Berry  
 Chad D. Herring  
 Christina M. Pickard  
 Llewellyn B. Killibrew  
 Johnnie Goodnight  
 Larry W. Cunningham  
 Matthew N. Hodgins  
 Robert N. Garland  
 John S. Walton  
 David J. Roberts  
 Steven K. Buscher  
 Joseph R. Navara  
 Tory P. Hueston  
 Jacob A. Lee

Michael D. Horton  
 Eric S. Gabriel  
 Juan C. Rodriguez  
 Steven E. Forker  
 John J. Sullivan  
 Andrew J. Betzner  
 Nickolas C. Wales  
 Lisa A. Bryant  
 Kyle P. Brown  
 Keith E. Elmore  
 Richard C. Dill II  
 Richard G. Hughes  
 Cameron L. Quillen  
 Casey R. Harrison  
 Christopher J. Cox  
 Devin N. Cleaver  
 Corey M. Marks  
 Scott D. Monroe  
 Gabrielle Beckner  
 Preston W. Emmons

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE**



**USW LOCAL 2958**



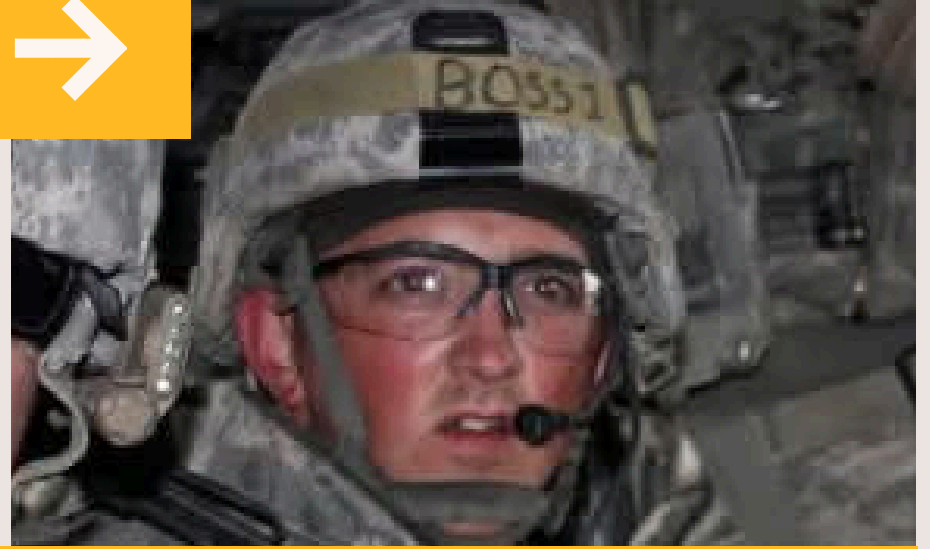
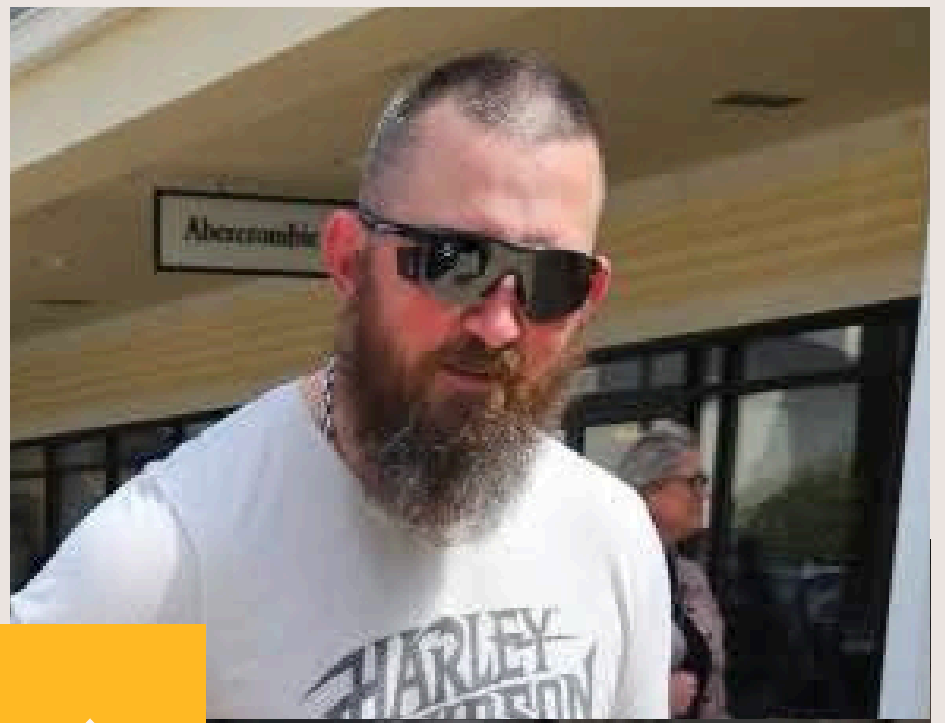
**SOME UNIFORMS YOU  
NEVER STOP WEARING.**



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

**JOHNNY ROBERTS**

WORK GROUP 1 - MEMBER SINCE 2005



## FROM THE SERVICE TO THE SHOP FLOOR - VETERAN SPOTLIGHT

CLOCK NUMBER - 26122

SHIFT - 1ST



**Tell us about yourself. What are your passions and interests outside of your job?**

I am a youth football coach for Peru. I run the K-2nd grade flag football and coach 3rd-4th grade tackle team which we are undefeated thru 2 yrs. Coaching the kids helps my mental state. I also enjoy riding my motorcycle and working on it. Some co-workers helped me add cams and other minor upgrades.



**Is there anything else you would like to say about your military service or about the military in general?**

The transition between military and civilian life is not easy for everyone. In the military you could be low enough rank where everything is decided for you and in civilian life that is not the case. Or, in the military, you are in charge, and you say what happens, when it happens, and how the soldiers follow the orders. In civilian life it's not like that and causes extra stress that civilians don't think about or don't know.

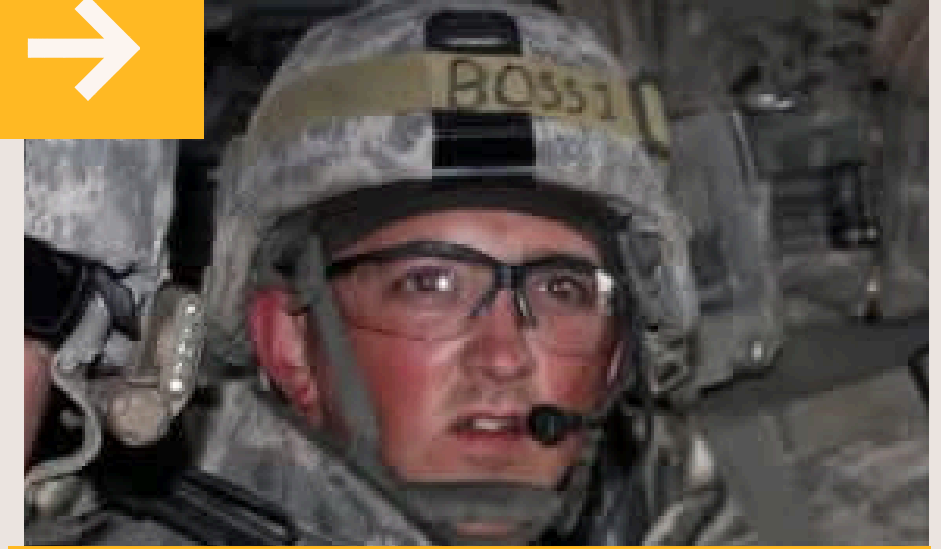
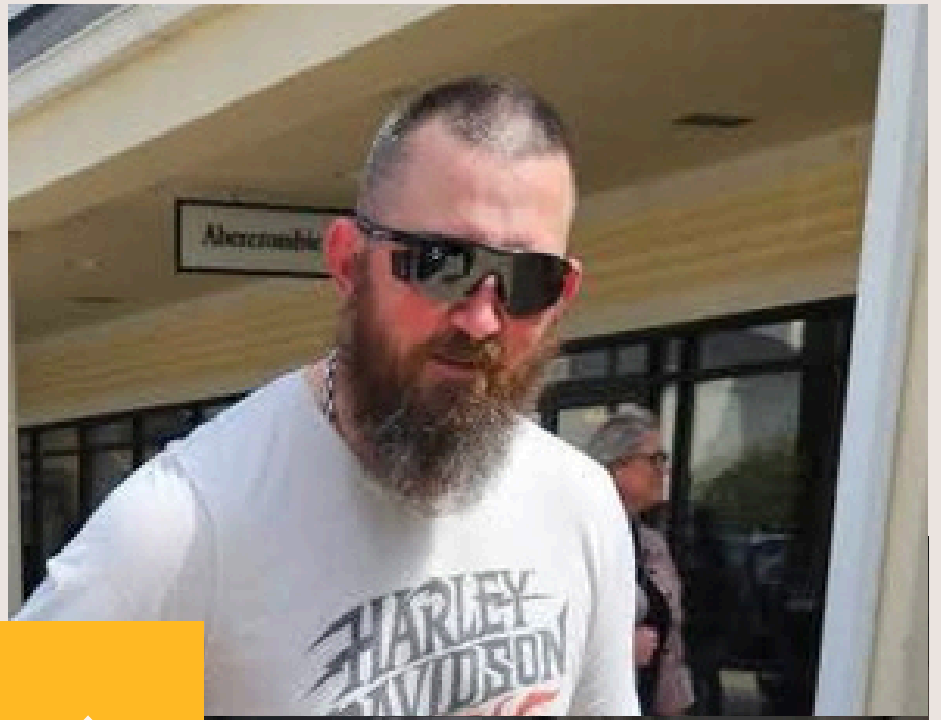


# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

CONTINUED

**JOHNNY ROBERTS**

WORK GROUP 1 - MEMBER SINCE 2005



## FROM THE SERVICE TO THE SHOP FLOOR - VETERAN SPOTLIGHT

CLOCK NUMBER - 26122

SHIFT - 1ST

**Q**

**What do you miss most about military service? What part are you glad you're done with?**

I miss the brotherhood and sense of purpose' knowing that being good at my job and making sure others were good at theirs was the only way things got accomplished.

I am glad that being away from my family and missing so much of their lives is over.

**Q**

**What do you think people get wrong, or most misunderstand about veterans?**

I think people misunderstand that some jobs in the military are regular jobs after basic training and some jobs are combat arms.

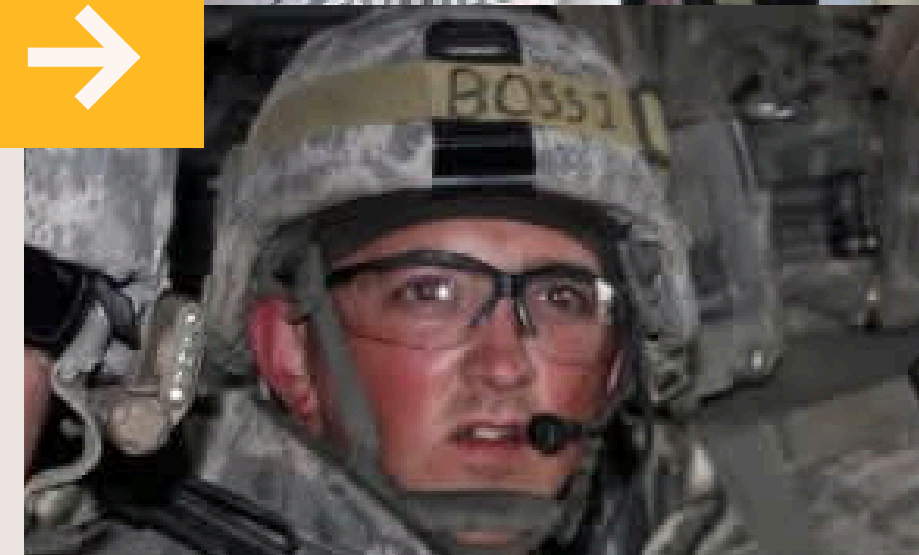
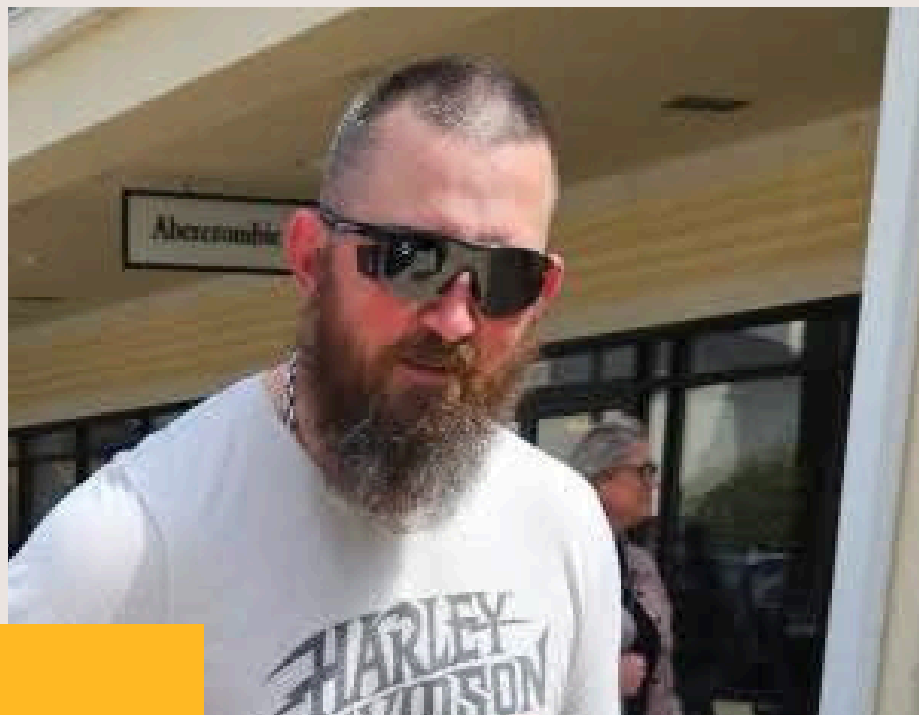


# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

CONTINUED

**JOHNNY ROBERTS**

WORK GROUP 1 - MEMBER SINCE 2005 →



## FROM THE SERVICE TO THE SHOP FLOOR - VETERAN SPOTLIGHT

CLOCK NUMBER - 26122

SHIFT - 1ST

**Q**

**What is your favorite memory from the time you served?**

One of my favorite memories is, my unit got activated to aid in Hurricane Katrina clean-up. While we were staying in an old schoolhouse to run ops out of, like tree removal, food and water distribution, and general clean-up, the community would all cook and meet at the schoolhouse for a dinner every Friday before the varsity football game. You could tell that us being in their community really meant a lot to them.

**Q**

**Can you share a piece of advice or a life lesson that you've learned and believe valuable for others to hear?**

Life motto, which I need to work on more myself, is "Be kind, you never know what people are dealing with."



# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK: STATE OF THE LOCAL UNION



This year has been busy for our union. We've dealt with new projects, safety issues, contract disputes, and also found ways to celebrate and support each other. Here's where we stand.

## Operations and Staffing

The company has been making big changes. Construction projects include new buildings, crane replacements, and utility work that continues to affect traffic and parking. Power sources were moved, and even the guard shack was turned into offices. Hiring has picked up, with around 60 new workers planned to be brought in. Every orientation class has signed 100% with the union. Some areas are still short-staffed, but reinforcements are helping.

## Safety

Safety is always on our minds. A plant-wide audit found over 400 items to fix, but no major hazards. Injuries have been reduced, and in June we hit a milestone: zero recordable injuries for the month, the first time in years. The safety team is pushing for new equipment, better reporting, and more training. Everyone's effort matters here.

# **FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK: STATE OF THE LOCAL UNION**

**CONTINUED**

## **Union Actions**

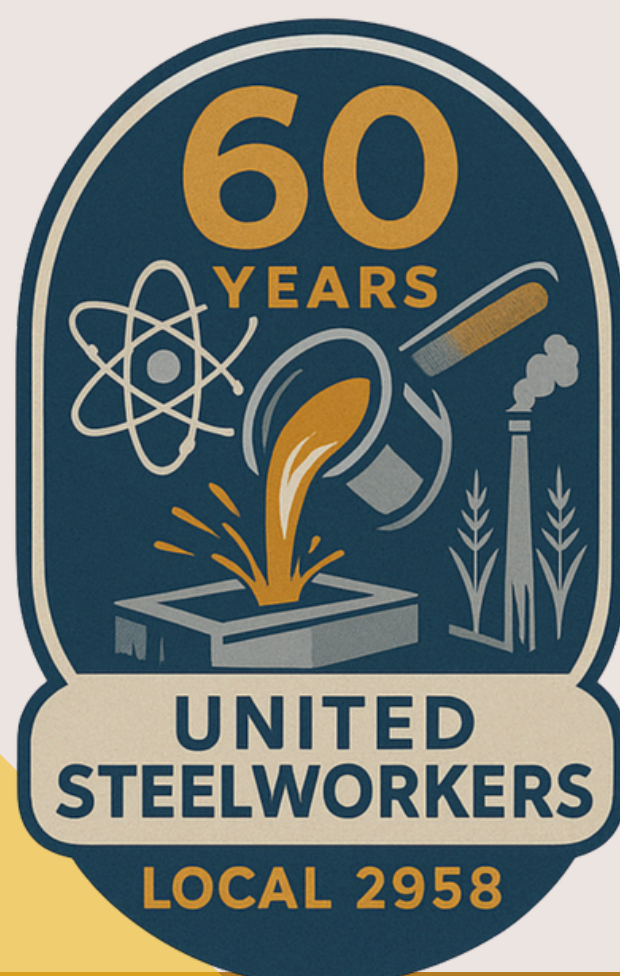
We supported community groups like United Way and Kokomo Rescue Mission. We sponsored events like the Solidarity Scholarship golf outing and Kokomo's Funniest Comedian. Members attended union conferences to build skills and leadership. We also set aside funds to honor our veterans and bring back the Christmas parties.

## **Challenges**

Management hasn't made things easy. We've seen heavy discipline on attendance, attempts to cut union jobs, and limits on attendance to Arcadia's negotiations. We've pushed back every time. FMLA disputes, contractor overtime, and proposed changes to drug testing protocol were also raised. We're holding the line.

## **Moving Forward**

Solidarity events like the Summer Picnic showed the strength of our union. New bylaws were passed to improve fairness and accountability. And with new hires joining our ranks, we're growing stronger. The state of our union is hopeful. We've got challenges ahead, but we'll face them together.

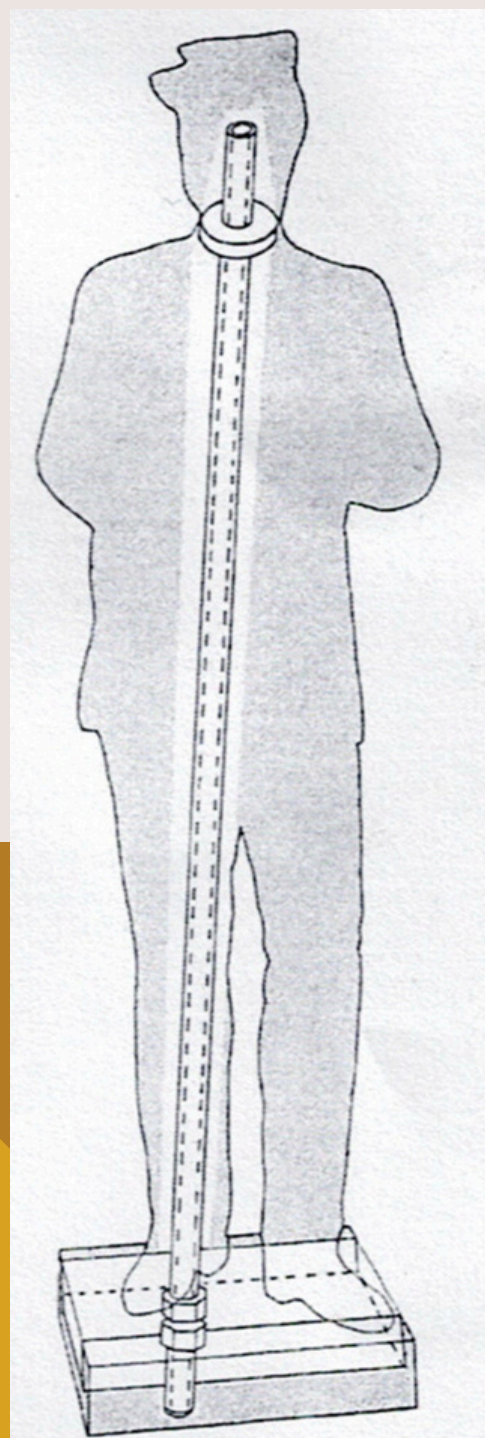


# ***STILL STANDING GUARD: THE OLD SOLDIER'S RESTORATION***

*By Zach Keller*

Since the end of World War I the “Old Soldier” statue, which was erected to honor local veterans of the Civil War, has watched over Cass County’s war veterans at Galveston Cemetery. But in June 1987, strong winds knocked it from its pedestal, damaging its head and revealing a bullet hole in its chest. Unsure what to do, the community kept it in storage, until a local man reached out for help.

Thanks to HASTELLOY® alloy C-22 (2277), the statue was restored and reinforced to stand the test of time. A new base of sheet was added to its feet, a corroded steel anchor was replaced, and a 2” alloy pipe was installed inside to strengthen the structure. On Veterans Day 1987, it was returned to its post, where it remains nearly four decades later. This is just one example of how our work matters. The alloys we develop today don’t just serve industries; they preserve history, protect infrastructure, and ensure strength and durability in critical applications around the world. It’s a testament to the lasting impact of what we do every day.

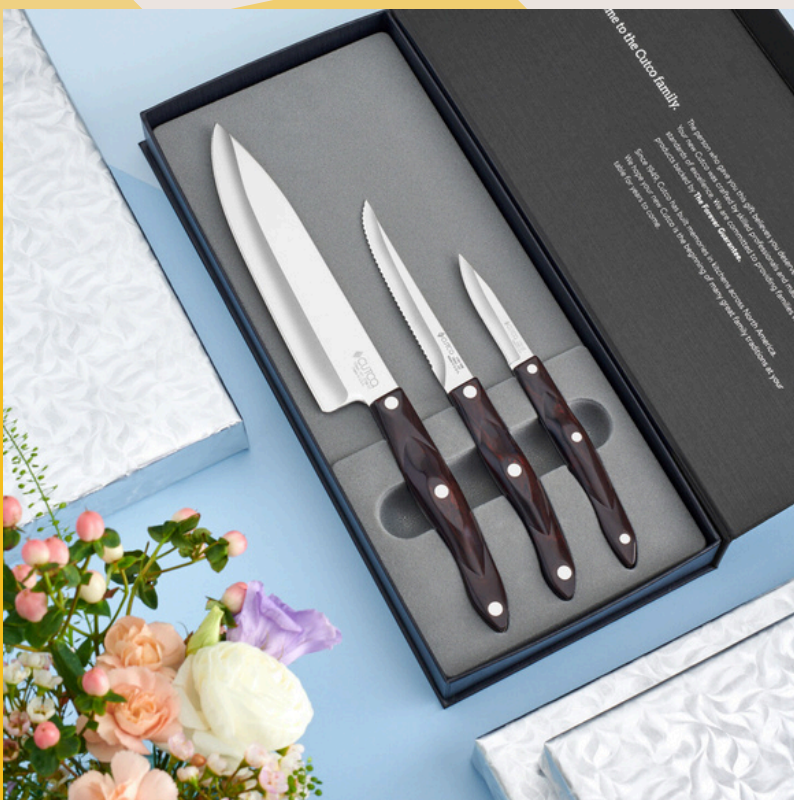


# HOLIDAY GIVING THAT BUILDS A STRONGER AMERICA

The holiday season is a time for connection, gratitude, and thoughtful giving. For those looking to celebrate with purpose, the United Steelworkers highlight exceptional union-made products that embody quality, tradition, and the spirit of solidarity. In a recent episode of Solidarity Works, the USW-produced podcast, workers from three unionized manufacturers shared insights into their crafts and offered inspiration for gifts that support American and Canadian workers.

**Cutco Knives:** A Legacy of Precision in Olean, New York  
For over 70 years, Cutco has produced premium cutlery in Olean, New York, where Local 5429 members craft knives designed to last a lifetime. Bill Baer, a 23-year employee and local president, detailed the meticulous process: blades are laser-cut from U.S.-sourced steel, heat-treated at nearly 2,000°F, and finished with hand-polished edges. The result is a product backed by a “forever guarantee,” ensuring free repairs or replacements.

“These knives aren’t just tools—they’re heirlooms,” Baer emphasized. Beyond durability, Cutco supports its community, offering stable jobs that enable workers like Baer to send children to college and thrive in rural New York. Available online, in select stores, or through the company’s Olean factory outlet, Cutco knives are a testament to union craftsmanship.



[CLICK HERE TO VISIT](#)



# HOLIDAY GIVING THAT BUILDS A STRONGER AMERICA

CONTINUED

**Louisville Slugger Bats:** Swinging for the Fences in Kentucky Baseball's iconic Louisville Slugger bats, made by USW Local 1693 members in Louisville, Kentucky, blend tradition with innovation. Unit President Tommy Forrest, a 17-year veteran, explained how raw timber from Pennsylvania mills is shaped on vintage lathes and modern CNC machines. Each bat is sanded, lacquered, and branded, with pro players and everyday fans alike cherishing the personalized results.

"When you hold a Slugger, you're holding history," said Forrest, whose family has worked at the plant for decades. Union-made bats not only sustain jobs but reinvest in local communities. Available at retailers or customized online, they're a home run for sports enthusiasts and labor supporters.



**CLICK HERE  
TO VISIT**



# HOLIDAY GIVING THAT BUILDS A STRONGER AMERICA

CONTINUED

**Wendell August Forge:** Artistry in Metal from Grove City, Pennsylvania

For 95 years, Wendell August Forge has transformed steel into handcrafted ornaments, trays, and keepsakes. Chris Fleming, an 18-year hammering craftsman, described the labor-intensive process: artisans use pneumatic hammers to imprint designs onto metal, each piece marked with the maker's unique symbol. Despite a devastating fire in 2010, the company, and its workers, rebuilt supported by their community.

"Every piece tells a story," Fleming noted, recalling heirlooms rescued from fires and passed through generations. Sold online and at their Grove City store, these union-made items celebrate milestones with enduring beauty.

## Why Union-Made Matters

Choosing union-made gifts is about more than just quality. It's a way to support workers, sustain families, and honor real craftsmanship. From Cutco's guaranteed cutlery to Wendell August's hand-forged keepsakes, these products reflect fair wages, opportunity, and pride. This holiday season, a union-made gift is a meaningful gesture of solidarity and a way to invest in our communities and the future of the labor movement.



[CLICK HERE  
TO VISIT](#)



# **OFFICERS, COMMITTEEPERSONS, AND OTHER REPS**

**Click  
Here**



FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION

**AGC- Brandon Thomas WG 1, Department 170, first shift**  
**ALT-, Mason Ingram WG 1, Department 170**  
**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**  
**ALT- Brandon Phelps WG 2, Department 190, third shift**  
**ASSISTANT- Alvah Copeland WG 2, Department 190, first shift**

**AGC- Kasey Mitchell WG 3, Department 145, third shift**

**AGC- Michael Wright, WG 4, Department 143,**  
**ASSISTANT- Craig Musgrave WG 4, Department 143,**  
**ALT- Phil Burks WG 4, Department 143, third shift**

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

**AGC – Austin Thorpe WG 5B, Department 168, third shift**  
**ALT- WG 5B, Department 168, first shift**  
**ASSISTANT- Trey Shane WG 5B, Department 168, 1st shift**

**AGC- Matt Mince WG 6, Department 172, first shift**  
**ALT- Marion Labig WG 6, Department 172, first shift**  
**ASSISTANT- Mike Barker WG 6, Department 172, first shift**

**AGC- Henry Young WG 9, 10, Department 447, second shift**  
**ASSISTANT- Kevin Silvers WG 9, 10, Department 447, first shift**  
**ASSISTANT- Rob Ooley WG 9, 10, Department 447, third shift.**

# **OFFICERS, COMMITTEEPERSONS, AND OTHER REPS**

**Click  
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FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION

**AGC- Brian Meagher, WG 8, Department 427, first shift**  
**ASSISTANT-David Hunt, WG 8, Department 427, third shift**  
**ASSISTANT- Craig Bambrough WG 8, Department 427, third shift**  
**ASSISTANT –Jim Elliott WG 8, Department 427, first shift**

**AGC- Alexa Hartley WG 11, Department 297, first shift**  
**ASST- Adam Henderson WG 11, 297, second shift**

**AGC- Kacey Gibson WG 13, Department 317, first shift**

**EAP REPRESENTATIVE - STEVE LEMING, FIRST SHIFT**  
**EAP REPRESENTATIVE - KELLY SILVERS, FIRST SHIFT**  
**EAP REPRESENTATIVE - JIM ELLIOTT, FIRST SHIFT**  
**EAP REPRESENTATIVE - DAVID TOCCO, FIRST SHIFT**  
**EAP REPRESENTATIVE - LISA BRYANT, SECOND SHIFT**  
**EAP REPRESENTATIVE - JOSH SHEEFEL, SECOND SHIFT**  
**EAP REPRESENTATIVE - ERIC HAINLEN, THIRD SHIFT**  
**EAP REPRESENTATIVE - DANNY SHELTON, THIRD SHIFT**  
**EAP REPRESENTATIVE - BRAYDEN MOTE, THIRD SHIFT**

**HUMAN RIGHTS CHAIR, WILLIE JACKSON, FIRST SHIFT**  
**HUMAN RIGHTS ASSISTANT, ROMAN MARTIN, THIRD SHIFT**  
**HUMAN RIGHTS ASSISTANT, HENRY YOUNG, SECOND SHIFT**

**RAPID RESPONSE COORDINATOR, JIM ELLIOTT, FIRST SHIFT**  
**SAFETY & HEALTH CHAIR, KELVIN VAZQUEZ, FIRST SHIFT**  
**SAFETY & HEALTH (ALT), JIM RADER, FIRST SHIFT**  
**SAFETY & HEALTH, DENNIS TUCKER, SECOND SHIFT**  
**SAFETY & HEALTH, DANNY SHELTON, THIRD SHIFT**

**CONTRACTING OUT CHAIR, SCOTT PUSLIPHER**  
**CONTRACTING OUT ASST., KEVIN SMITH**  
**SKILLED TRADES CHAIR, JAMIE MUSGRAVE**  
**SKILLED TRADES COMMITTEE, DENVER REED**

# WOMEN OF STEEL: PAINT & SIP

*By Brittanie Forsthoffer*

On Saturday, October 18th the Women of Steel Committee hosted a reintroduction of Women of Steel Paint and Sip event at the union hall. Fourteen union sisters joined together to paint flower pots, eat snacks, sip some “steelworker sangria,” & get to know outside of the factory walls. We had a variety of meats, cheeses, crackers, & desserts as well as a few wine options. All the women painted some really creative flower pots and chose a plant to take home in their painted pots!

We started the event with introductions and discussing some goals for Women of Steel. Some of the things discussed were fundraisers and community events that we could participate in. For example, we would love to get a group together and wrap Christmas presents at the Rescue Mission. If this is something you would be interested in helping with or bringing your children to help with please let your Women of Steel committee know!

There were some great fundraiser ideas thrown around, and we cannot wait to get them organized. Some ideas mentioned besides the typical raffles or gate collections were a trivia night, a bingo night, and a black tie event. We also discussed events for the community that we would love to host. One idea that seemed to have a lot of interest was a trunk or treat event for next Halloween.

Overall, we have high hopes for the future of Women of Steel and believe we will be able to do a lot of good in our plant and community. Our main goal for Women of Steel is create a safe space for our sisters to build solidarity and a strong support system in each other so we can spread that into the community!



# WOMEN OF STEEL: PAINT & SIP



UNITED STEELWORKERS  
**USW**  
WOMEN OF STEEL

# **NEW VOICE, SAME FIGHT: MUSGRAVE TAKES THE LEAD**

*By Andrew Betzner*



On September 3rd, Jamie Musgrave was selected as the new Skilled Trades Chairman, replacing John Beck. Musgrave is a seven-year member of Local 2958, originally starting in Vacuum Melt, then working through the apprenticeship program, becoming an electrician. In his own words, he describes himself as someone who has “never had an issue speaking my mind when it comes to decisions being made around here, or offering up my opinions even when nobody asked for them. It has always been hard for me to stay quiet when I see we are on a crash course.” As someone who has worked beside him for almost 20 years between Haynes and a previous employer, I assure you this is true.



## **NEW VOICE, SAME FIGHT:**

### **MUSGRAVE TAKES THE LEAD**

**CONTINUED**

Much like his predecessor Beck, they both have strong work ethics, something I believe gives them an advantage. When a hard worker comes to management with advice, it's challenging for them to dismiss it as "just trying to get out of work." The high standard Beck brought as chairman is a hard act to follow, something Musgrave is keenly aware of. "John was chair of this committee for, I believe 10 years, and he left some big shoes to fill. That being said, I do have some ideas that I'm working on, but for now, I'm trying to get settled into this position. This is my first active role in the union that I have taken on. I know I have a lot to learn."

When asked what he thinks are the biggest problems facing skilled trades, Musgrave didn't hold back. "I think the biggest problem we are currently facing is our numbers. They are dropping faster than we can replace. Feels like recently we have been running an apprenticeship program to supply Chrysler skilled trades employees. I can't blame someone for seeking higher wages, better or cheaper benefits, cleaner, cooler working conditions, being able to take your vacation time when you want, or just wanting to be able to PLAN a weekend getaway with your wife or loved ones more than 2 days in advance."

## **NEW VOICE, SAME FIGHT:**

### **MUSGRAVE TAKES THE LEAD**

**CONTINUED**

Musgrave attributes this to a lack of a clear plan with overtime scheduling. "Weekdays right now, the blanket scheduling of trades with no clear reason as to why we are scheduled has most of us feeling burnt out." Musgrave goes on to say that this burnout has led to many who previously volunteered for weekends foregoing that route, knowing if they sign up for the first two weekends, they'll end up getting forced to do the remainder.

Lastly, Musgrave touches on the growing friction between trades and management, and the focus on allocating funds towards more management over skilled trades retention. "It's mind-blowing to me that as a company we are not trying harder to keep our skilled tradesmen and women. I've heard there is no money for wage increases to make us more appealing in the current job market, or if you want Chrysler money, go to Chrysler. Then they turn around and hire another maintenance boss." Musgrave elaborates further on the supervisor/worker ratio, stating, "I have seen the ratio from skilled trades to maintenance bosses go from 15-1 to right now almost 7-1, and we are in worse shape because of it." Unfortunately, the words Musgrave spoke echo the same challenges Beck had been facing for over a year with little movement from management.

## **NEW VOICE, SAME FIGHT: MUSGRAVE TAKES THE LEAD**

**CONTINUED**

While still new to the position, Musgrave does have some ideas in mind. One of the plans he mentions is to build a coalition of advisors, one from each craft, to consult with before attending meetings with management. "I would like to lock in one person from each craft to advise on issues pertaining to that specific craft. So I can bring it to management and attempt to resolve it. I think it would also help to keep more members involved." He explains the local already utilizes a similar method with interviews, something else he would also like to refine. "I would like to take it a little further in that regard by coming up with a standard list of questions, prints to read, and symbols of the trade, to ask each potential new journeyman."

Like most things in life, the success or failure of resolving these problems rests in more than just the hands of one man. It will take the patience of the membership to give him grace when he falls short of success. It will take the new chairman to be not only a good speaker, but an even better listener. In his words, I see a reflection of what goes through the mind of many at Haynes: "It's sad as it really doesn't have to be this way, in the end, we all should be wanting the same thing, a profitable company that we can all continue to grow with to provide for our families." I'd like to take one last moment to recognize John Beck's efforts in chasing that dream, and the courage of Jamie Musgrave in continuing that fight.



# NEXT GEN REPORT

CONTRIBUTOR  
MERCEDES LAHR



Hey ya'll! Next Gen here! Remember the last contract when we all wore our bright yellow shirts every Wednesday, and it felt like we were in a super cool club? Almost like a union that came together on at least ONE thing? What do you say we give something similar a try? NextGen is getting our shirts together (finally) and has a couple of ideas for general USW2958 shirts. We all know our options are limited, and when we had the design contest, no one really participated. Ya'll know how to reach out. Let's work together to make EVERY Friday a union shirt-wearing, solidarity-building, "Best of the best", Solidarity Friday! PS, we are obviously open to more shirt ideas. GET INVOLVED in any little way you can :)



**METAL  
MAYHEM**  
LOCAL 2958'S EDITORIAL  
CARTOON FEATURE



Spoiler Alert : No Changes Were Made

# SOLIDARITY FRIDAY

*By Eric Gibson*

Benjamin Franklin once said "We must all hang together or most assuredly hang separately." Last issue I focused on Solidarity. Now I want to look at what that means for us. We are a couple years away from contract time. How we come together now will have a direct effect on our future. As always we hope for the best but plan for the worst. If you are not saving now for a possible rainy day then please start. Accepting a bad contract because you failed to plan ahead is not a good plan at all and is, as put by Mr. Franklin, hanging separately. I believe we have a real chance for advancement in many areas. This can only be accomplished when we are ready financially and hang together. In the coming months Next Gen will be offering training on many worker topics as well as solidarity initiatives.

The first of the initiatives we will be rolling out is Solidarity Friday. The ask is simple, wear your union shirts on Friday. Show management that we stand as one on issues that affect all workers. Those issues are simple and it doesn't matter what political views you hold. We hang together on the issues of Fair Wages, A voice on the job, Work Life Balance, Health and Safety, Retirement Security, and Equal and Fair Treatment.

Get involved. Something as simple as attending a union meeting. Coming to a NextGen or Women of steel meeting. Goes a long way in building strong bonds. There are many opportunities for solidarity building daily. Help a brother or sister out once a day. Plan a monthly Pitch-in for your department. Take a few minutes a day to make us stronger.



If you want to get involved in your union but don't know how, ask, call your union hall, ask a union rep, or ask me personally. This is your Union and our Future. I hope to talk to many of you soon and as always **WHEN WE FIGHT WE WIN.**