

# GOLDEN LODGE NEWS

Volume 68, No. 9

October 2021

## TimkenSteel BLA extended



**By Pat Eslich**  
*President*

By the time you read this edition of the Golden Lodge News, the USW and TimkenSteel may well have a Tentative Agreement and a ratification vote scheduled.

But alas, due to the time lag involved in editing, printing and mailing the newsletter, I write this as we have just entered into a two-week extension of the 2017 BLA.

The Negotiating Committee has invested a great deal of time and effort to achieve a contract. We have been trying to develop language to protect the members and have made inroads, but we still must convince the Company of the importance of such language.

The Union and the Company are still talking and making progress. Both sides realized that a tentative contract would not be reached by the expiration date of our current Agreement, and we have mutually agreed to a two-week extension.

In the first week of the extension, the time was used to review all the information the Company provided as per our requests. Meetings are to resume the second week of the extension.

Remember that talking is a good thing and problems start when no one is talking, so I believe an agreement will be reached soon that is good for us.

Please be careful when doing your job. Recently a member was discharged for improper job performance. Let's not give the Company any reason to give out discipline.

This past month, we were successful in reducing a six-day suspension to a three day and were effec-

tive in getting the Company to credit members paid hours for salary doing bargaining unit work.

Over these past few months, we have been very effective in protecting members rights and assuring fair treatment for those who have been disciplined. This is your Union at work!

In this edition you will see a report on the Women of Steel golf outing to benefit Clearview Hope. Thanks go out to those involved with supporting this worthwhile organization.

Also on August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021, USW District 1, Sub District 2 put together a poker run to benefit veterans as part of the Veterans of Steel program.

James Mason, a staff representative for Sub District 2 and a U.S. Navy Veteran, put together a nice route and had some great raffle prizes.

They included bottles made by our USW Brothers and Sisters at Anchor Hocking and a NASCAR race tire produced by USW members who are employed at Goodyear, which is right up the road from us in Akron.

Keep an eye on the newsletters and bulletins for more upcoming activities.





**By Curtis Green**

*FSP Safety Committee*

Our number one goal is to go to work and come home safely. Another goal is to not worry about being reprimanded for reporting unsafe conditions or incidents through the steps and practices we have as a company policy or as a report to OSHA in the event our practices and policies fail to be acknowledged. As defined by the OSHA website:

*Section 11(c) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSH Act) prohibits employers from retaliating against employees for exercising a variety of rights guaranteed under the OSH Act, such as filing a safety or health complaint with OSHA, raising a health and safety concern with their employers, participating in an OSHA inspection, or reporting a work-related injury or illness. A covered employee is any employee of a person engaged in a business affecting interstate commerce, except employees of the United States, States, or political subdivisions of States. However, employees of the United States Postal Service are also covered employees.*

So, what does that mean? Who does that apply to? How do I report an 11(c) violation? Do I need to? An 11(c) violation is not an easy item to prove, it may seem that the employer is retaliating but how does OSHA determine if it is?

Clearly if you get fired directly after making a report to OSHA that may be a dead giveaway. Is changing your assignment a violation? Probably not. Is it a violation if your supervisor repeatedly questions you and pesters you about a report that has been made that they may believe or knows that you made? There is a good chance that it is.

On top of the Company's no retaliation policy, we have the protection of OSHA when it comes to

backlash from reporting. This applies to all employees covered under OSHA.

How do I report what I believe to be a violation? First off, we as Union representatives would request that you confer with your Union safety representative or plant safety committee member and the Union Hall first. There may be something we can do internally that will be more advantageous to all the parties involved.

If nothing can be resolved that way, OSHA can be informed verbally by you, the employee, or a representative of the employee by phone or in person at the OSHA regional office.

A complaint may also be submitted in writing to the OSHA website. It's critical that a report be made within 30 days of the incident.

To file a complaint electronically, please visit: [www.whistleblowers.gov/complaint\\_page.html](http://www.whistleblowers.gov/complaint_page.html)

To contact OSHA please call 1-800-321-OSHA (6742). They will connect you to the closest office.

Like I stated earlier, you have a Union, and you should ALWAYS utilize your Union first with matters of safety and health or potential contract violations. **THAT'S WHY YOU PAY DUES!** Your elected and appointed officials are here to help, day and night, every day.

Contrary to popular belief, the Union and the Company, for the most part, work rather well together in these situations and can usually come to some alignment when there are issues or problems between hourly personnel and our salary counterparts when safety is the main factor.

Whether it be an unsafe work practice, or a Covid-19 issue. We are here to keep you as safe as humanly possible.



# ODNR Hunter Safety Course

**By Curtis Green**

So as time rolls on from summer to fall, for a certain few, it is approaching hunting season.

A wonderful time of year when the leaves change, and the woods come to life. Which brings me to this article, about the Hunters Education Classes. Our local has historically provided the Stark County Hunters Safety Educators our hall to conduct these classes, free to the public for anyone to attend in September.

I am very excited and proud to have two of my sons attending with me this year. I first attended a hunters safety course when I was 12, prior to ever going hunting at all. The course was educational, informative and laser focused on safety. I was shocked on how much the classes had changed between the first one I took as a young man and the second one I attended a few years ago.

Again there are improvements and additions to this third course that surprised me how much I can still learn going forward. I invite you to take this course and even retake it if you have the opportunity, because there is more to learn to make you a better and safer outdoors enthusiast.

I completely understand that not everyone has the same opinion about hunting. One point I would like to make for anyone that may simply like to spend time out in nature is that this course might be beneficial if you are going to spend anytime where there may also be people hunting.

There are hundreds of acres of public land owned by the state that you may want to visit, which may also be designated for public hunting. You may encounter the hunters in your visit. It's something to think about because safety is everyone's responsibility.

If you are interested in attending a hunter's education class please visit [www.ohiodnr.gov](http://www.ohiodnr.gov) to find the nearest class available and register. The entire class passed and were very excited to be joining their family's this fall out in the field. I'd like to thank Bob Hess and his classroom assistants, Mr. Shaheen and Don Lint, for the time they took to provide a great class this year.

## GOLDEN LODGE NEWS

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**USW WOMEN OF STEEL**  
golf scramble fund raiser  
Aug 29, 2021

**Winning Team**  
Colby Donohoe  
Ryan Donohoe  
Pree Haskins  
Terry Burt

**Totals**

**Hole Sponsors**

USW Local 1123.	500.00
USW District 1	1500.00
Hall of Fame Labor Council	100.00
Adam's & Sons	100.00
WOS Local 9187	100.00
KBY Services	100.00

**Donations and Raffle Items**

Mission BBQ	Joe Plott
Shear Shop	Elsie Fox
Fin Feather Fur	Wiz Ink
Sue Snyder	Joe Sterling
Thrish Hostetler	

**EXPENSES**

Amazon	
-goodie bags and prizes	13.35
Walmart	
-golf balls	97.79
Giant Eagle	
-drinks, hot dogs, plates, buns...	365.25
Jimmy's Backyard BBQ	
-dinner	160.00
Speedway - ice	23.95
Greens fees	1404.00
PPI Graphics	
-sponsor sign	10.00

**Money In**

Team registration (13) teams	2860.00
Hole sponsors.	2400.00
Donation	50.00
Raffles	370.00
50/50 money	255.00
Mulligans	120.00

**Total In \$6055.00**

**TOTAL EXPENSES**  
\$2074.34

**Total In \$6055.00**  
**Total Out \$2074.00**  
**Total Donation to Clearview Hope**  
**\$3981.00**





## WHAT IS VETERANS OF STEEL

Under the leadership of President Tom Conway, Veterans of Steel was created to be a member-driven program to help Steelworkers who are veterans by covering topics that specifically pertain to them such as:

- contract language for veterans' issues;
- increasing funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs;
- placing qualified veterans in good union jobs;
- helping veterans in both countries deal with mental health and other issues; and
- publishing a resource guide for vets who are union members.

Our goal is to engage our veterans in the union and in the communities where they live; educate and advocate for veteran issues in both the United States and Canada; and provide a variety of resources for Steelworker vets and their families.

- Help deliver needed resources for our members and their families who are veterans such as benefits info, help with PTSD treatment options, job training, etc.
- Create a space where our veteran members can network with each other and help each other, build stronger local unions, and drive the Veterans of Steel committees on the ground.
- Foster a culture of activism from getting engaged in local union work to volunteering in the community to running for political office and more.
- Build a strong connection with other veterans in the community.

If you are a USW member who's also a military veteran and interested in learning more about our Veterans of Steel Program, visit [usw.org/VetsOfSteel](https://usw.org/VetsOfSteel) and fill out the form or text VET to 47486 to join. With your registration, you'll receive a free "Veteran of Steel" dog tag and hard-hat sticker.

# Celebrating Medicare and Social Security

**By Bill Pienta**

*SOAR President* Each year, in the early days of January, I'll flip through my wall calendar and mark down important dates I'm looking forward to in the coming year, including holidays, vacations, birthdays and anniversaries like my wedding (obviously!) and the day I became a USW member.

Since I retired in 2012, I've also gotten into the practice of marking down the anniversaries of Medicare (enacted in July of 1965) and Social Security (enacted in August of 1935) because, quite frankly, these two programs make it possible for me to celebrate all these other milestones I'm marking on my calendar. This is not an exaggeration.

In 1935, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law, the average American was only expected to live 60 years. By 1965, when President Lyndon Johnson enacted Medicare, life expectancy had increased to 70 years. By 2018 the figure grew to 79 years.

Together, Social Security and Medicare were intended to address two significant needs among Americans who are vulnerable because of age or disability: **1) access to health care and 2) a monthly financial supplement intended to help Americans avoid poverty after they retire.**

There are approximately 61 million Americans who access their health care through Medicare.

And according to the recent Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS), 92 percent of recipients are satisfied with their overall care and access to health services through the program.

According to a recent report from AARP, sixty-four million Americans currently receive a monthly monetary supplement from Social Security. Which is a program deemed necessary by 96 percent of Americans.

The same report also found that most Americans (56 percent) believe Social Security benefits have become even more critical during our post-pandemic economy.

For many Americans, the promise of Social Security and Medicare is the only thing that makes retirement possible.

As a retiree, one thing I know is that it is nice to be retired. So, this summer, I'll be celebrating the anniversaries of Medicare and Social Security. I hope you will as well.

*Source: [www.socialsecurityworks.org](http://www.socialsecurityworks.org)*

## SOAR NOTES

I.W. Abel  
Chapter  
1/27

On September 7, 2021, the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR) Chapters from Republic Steel Massillon and Republic Steel Canton have merged with the I.W. Abel SOAR Chapter, (Golden Lodge).

Due to declining membership, plant closings and cutbacks, our three SOAR Chapters have become one Chapter. Affected SOAR members will be receiving a letter from the SOAR International President in the near future.

In Solidarity,  
Fred Garrett ~ SOAR Golden Lodge  
Paul Santilli ~ SOAR Massillon  
Virginia Heidelberg ~ SOAR Canton

### *Recent Retirees*

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

*Robert Crilley*

*Steven Hendershot*

*Richard Sutton*

*Ronald Hoffman*

## *Coming Events*

### November 3

Union Meeting  
4:30 pm

### November 10

Stewards Class  
9:00 am & 4:30 pm

### November 17

Union Meeting  
9:00 am

### November 25 & 26

Paid Holidays\*

*\*Union negotiated benefit*

*Unfortunately, due to ongoing  
Covid-19 restrictions, the following  
events are cancelled for this year*

*\*The Veterans' Breakfast\**

*\*The Children's Christmas Party\**

## IN MEMORIAM

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

**EUGENE N. DEIBEL**, Age 94, Dept. 68, passed away September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Brother Deibel joined the Union in 1949 and retired in 1990.

**JOSEPH N. BIFOLCHI**, Age 77, Dept. 134, passed away September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. Brother Bifolchi joined the Union in 1971 and retired in 2001.

**DALE E. CARY**, Age 81, Dept. 753, passed away September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Brother Cary joined the Union in 1964 and retired in 1999.

**RICHARD L. RAY**, Age 69, Dept. 199, passed away September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Brother Ray joined the Union in 1973 and retired in 2003.

**BRUCE M. HAMPTON**, Age 68, Dept. 134, passed away September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Brother Hampton joined the Union in 1972 and retired in 2010.

**RAYMOND BLACKLEDGE, JR.**, Age 89, Dept. 135, passed away September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Brother Blackledge joined the Union in 1956 and retired in 1990.

**LUM E. KEENAN**, Age 74, Dept. 185, passed away September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Brother Keenan joined the Union in 1973 and retired in 2007.

**TED R. HUMPHREY**, Age 71, Dept. 97, passed away September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Brother Humphrey joined the Union in 1974 and retired in 2003.



# 2022 healthcare insurance enrollment for Bearing retirees

**By Ron Roberts** Associate Editor In September, the Timken Company (Bearing) sent letters to bargaining unit retirees concerning health insurance for 2022.

Letters were sent by certified mail to those households that have non-Medicare eligible members, informing them of changes for the upcoming year.

Letters were also sent, non-certified, to those households that only have Medicare eligible members.

The letters outlined the following:

## Medicare eligible retirees/Medicare eligible dependents:

- Will have the same Medicare Advantage Plan, available through Humana, as 2021.
- There is no lump sum offering to permanently waive Timken coverage.
- There will be no in person education sessions for Medicare eligible households.
- The open enrollment process will be a **passive enrollment** meaning they have to take no action to continue in the plan.

## Non-Medicare retirees/non-Medicare dependents:

- Will have a new plan for 2022.
- Only one plan option will be offered.
- The non-Medicare eligible open enrollment is **active enrollment** meaning **you must complete and return the form by November 15, 2021.**
- ***If you fail to complete your enrollment form by the deadline, you and your eligible dependents will be permanently dropped from coverage effective January 1, 2022.***
- Retirees and dependents dropped from coverage will have no possibility to opt back into Timken coverage.

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 973  
CANTON, OH

Steelworkers Local 1123, Golden Lodge  
1234 Harrison Ave. SW  
Canton, OH 44706

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## Households with both Medicare eligible and non-Medicare eligible members:

- Medicare eligible members will have to take no action to continue coverage.
- Non-Medicare eligible members **will have** to fill out applicable form and return by November 15, 2021.

Applicable enrollment packets have been mailed to those affected. The new non-Medicare medical and prescription drug program comes with increases in annual deductibles, maximum out of pocket costs, higher co-pays and a substantial increase in monthly premiums. The providers, Aultcare or Anthem for healthcare and CVS Caremark for prescriptions are unchanged.

No information concerning TimkenSteel retiree healthcare for 2022 has been communicated to the Golden Lodge at the time of this writing.