

GOLDEN LODGE NEWS

Volume 71, No. 3



Fall 2024



New By-Laws Committee w/ 3 Big Changes, New Medical Provider and a Ground-Breaking

By Willis McCoy
President

Business on the steel side of things is still slow. Hopefully, we will see it pick up soon. On

August 7th I had an opportunity to take part in a ground-breaking ceremony at Faircrest Steel Plant. A new bloom reheat furnace is to be built. The new furnace is being funded by the United States Department of Defense and the Army. That funding is a commitment of \$99 million. There is also a \$3.5 million grant from JobsOhio. The date of completing the project is expected to be some time in late 2025.

In mid-July, I put a new By-Laws Committee together to update and address our outdated by-laws. Article XIX Additions and Amendments to Additions, page 56 in our By-Laws for Amalgamated Local Unions explains the procedure. Specifically, paragraph 3.3:

Proposed additions and or amendments to additions must be submitted in writing and read at two (2) consecutive local union meetings and passed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the membership present at the next regular meeting. The subject matter of such additions or amendments to additions must be advertised to the membership through a bulletin board or other medium prior to the meeting at which the vote thereon is to be taken. Such additions or amendments to additions shall become effective only after approval by the International Union.

Here are the three biggest changes to the new Golden Lodge By-laws.

* One (1) Union meeting a month. That meeting will be held on the third Wednesday of the month at 4:30 pm.

* Discontinue the bulk printing and postage of (mailing) the Golden Lodge calendar.

* Discontinue the bulk printing and postage of (mailing) the Golden Lodge Newsletter.

* We will continue publishing the Golden Lodge news and posting it digitally. Another brief article is in this issue explaining how to find and navigate this transition.

Mental Health. We hear about it a lot. Most of us think it is someone else's problem. Yet a lot of us have experienced it. Most times we figure it out, but, sometimes it becomes too much. I have always found that when struggling with a problem and keeping it bottled up, it only gets worse. However, when I find the ability to talk about it or even complain about it, I feel better.

With that being said and due to recent events, I wanted to start a group (like a round table), to be able to get together and sit down and talk about what is bothering us. I know my veteran brothers and sisters are usually at the front of this line. But this will be for any and all of our brothers and sisters.

Do you have a story? Would you be able to share? To listen? To relate? To help? Please reach out. I am calling this the Golden Lodge Round Table. Times and dates will be posted periodically. However, if you do need us before that, please contact us.

We have been informed by Metallus that starting January 1, 2025, Anthem will be the healthcare and prescription provider for active Golden Lodge members working at the steel plants. More information will be mailed to you from the company.

Also, for the steel retirees that are non-Medicare eligible, the monthly premium for 2025 will remain at the same level as 2024. We have not received any health insurance updates from the Timken Company.

Golden Lodge Newsletter's Past and What's Ahead

By Ron Roberts
Associate Editor

As you may have read in President McCoy's article, we are stopping the **printing and mailing** of the Golden Lodge News and the Union calendars. This change comes with a heavy heart and sense of loss.

The Golden Lodge News was first printed in 1940 and, with the exception of an eleven-year hiatus, has been distributed since. That is seventy-three years of informing the membership, reporting on pertinent policies, providing a forum for gripes, grievances and in some cases, gossip.

The GLN has recorded elections results, contract conditions, safety concerns, deaths, retirements, meeting notices, plant closings, strikes, photographs of Union representatives, sports teams, cartoons, and a whole host of information deemed newsworthy by the Editors and Committee members.

The Golden Lodge News was even called out in the Timken book "From Missouri to Mars" for likening the conditions in the plants to "sweatshops," accusing Timken of using Gestapo tactics and its "attacks" on management.

The GLN has been the recipient of numerous awards including the Howard J. McCartney Award, the highest honor of the United Steelworkers Press Association (USPA). The Golden Lodge is also a charter member of the Midwest Labor Press Association with past Editors serving as MLPA Presidents.

So why, with all this rich history, are we stopping the printing and mailing of the GLN? The answer is money and a changing membership. Due to the impending financial changes here at the Union Hall that must be made, this issue of the Golden Lodge newsletter will be **the last one** that will be printed and mailed out.

The costs of the paper and calendar have become a major financial burden to the Local. On average we mail 5300 copies per edition at a cost of \$5735. Doing that even four times a year quickly adds up.

In addition to the GLN, factor in another \$17300 for the calendars and you can see the concern. Of the 5300 mailed newsletters, 1200 go out to active members with the remaining bulk going to retirees and surviving spouses.

The membership change is reflected in the way active members get their news. Printed publications have been in decline for some time now and Union newsletters are not immune. People get their news electronically and this trend seems irreversible.

We are aware that this change will risk losing contact with retirees and/or surviving spouses. You will not have the automatic connection to the Golden Lodge arriving at your doorstep. No paper copy to scan the deaths and retirements. No cutting out the pension pay-dates and putting them on the fridge.

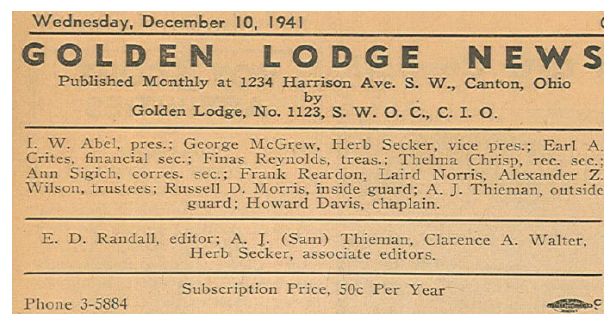
The good news is **we will still publish the GLN**. You will just access it differently. The current schedule is to remain a quarterly publication that will be posted on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/uswlocal1123 and on our USW website: www.uswlocal1123.com. You can use a smartphone, tablet, or pc to view and read it.

Here is how to navigate our social media pages to view and read each quarterly issue. After producing the newsletter we save it as a PDF, which stands for Portable Document Format. It is a file format that allows users to share documents across different operating systems, hardware, and software.

The first place we put it is on our website which is a USW template for Local Unions. We scan the front page image, attach it to a Blog post and the link is in the body of the article below the image. We also put all the GLN PDF links under the Section titled "Frequently Asked Questions."

On a Facebook post, we attach the front page image and put the link to view and read the document under the text or in the first comment under the post. Facebook does not like PDF's for some reason.

Ending an era is sad. Nobody likes change. But change is one of the constants in life.



First Issue's Letterhead

IRA Lowers Medicare Out-of-Pocket Drug Costs

The Biden-Harris Administration's Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), also known as the prescription drug law, made several improvements to the basic Part D drug benefit. According to a report by the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, these changes to the Part D basic benefit are projected to save people with Medicare an average of 30% in annual out-of-pocket (OOP) prescription drug costs in 2025.

This will result in a decrease of approximately \$7.4 billion in out-of-pocket prescription drug spending for people with Medicare Part D in 2025. Before the prescription drug law, millions of people with Medicare struggled to afford their prescription drugs. People with lower incomes and those under age 65 are also more likely to skip taking the medicine they need because of high costs. The prescription drug law makes changes to Medicare Part D so that millions of people with Medicare will spend less on their prescriptions.

In addition to multiple provisions of the IRA that are already lowering costs for people with Medicare, Part D benefit improvements going into effect in 2025 include the following: Beneficiary Out of Pocket (OOP) spending is capped at \$2,000 for 2025. As in 2024, there is no beneficiary cost sharing above the annual OOP threshold in 2025. The coverage gap phase (also known as the "donut hole") will be eliminated, which will result in standard Part D coverage consisting of a three-phase benefit: a deductible phase, an initial coverage phase, and a catastrophic phase.

There will be no initial coverage limit, and the initial coverage phase will extend to the maximum annual OOP threshold, at which point the catastrophic phase will begin. The Coverage Gap Discount Program sunsets effective January 1, 2025, and is replaced by the Manufacturer Discount Program. Under the Manufacturer Discount Program, the manufacturer will typically pay a 10% discount for brand-name drugs and biologics in the initial coverage phase. In the catastrophic phase, the manufacturer typically pays a 20% discount for brand-name drugs and biologics.

The reinsurance payment amount for Coverage Year (CY) 2025 for a Part D beneficiary will decrease from 80% of the allowable reinsurance costs incurred after the beneficiary exceeds the annual OOP threshold to 20% for brand-name drugs and biologics or 40% for generics. Amounts that previously would have been paid as reinsurance will, on average, shift to plans' upfront calculation of costs and the upfront government subsidy. Beginning in CY 2025, more payments by third-party payers will accrue as if they were beneficiary out-of-pocket costs, reducing beneficiary spending, including supplemental Part D coverage and coverage by other health insurers. Overall, these changes mean that the government subsidy to Part D plans is shifting from largely being reconciled on the back end based on beneficiary costs (i.e., reinsurance payments) to a larger risk-adjusted government Part D subsidy payment upfront.

By design, plans will have more liability requiring them to better manage costs within that upfront payment amount. The IRA also provides a premium stabilization mechanism to limit the average premium increases for people enrolled in Part D to about \$2 per month on average. Due to both of these changes, a higher percentage of the plan bid amounts (i.e., plans' estimates of expected costs for an average enrollee) will be paid by the government subsidy to plans, and thus changes to plan bid amounts do not reflect potential premium changes to enrollees. **Source - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services - July 29, 2024 - Fact Sheet**

GOLDEN LODGE NEWS

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Looking Out For Your Mental Health By Trish Hostetler HSP Safety Committee

USW Golden Lodge Local Union 1123 can play a vital role in creating a safe and healthy place for our members. It's getting close to that time when we are thinking more about our physical health by getting our annual physical exams. But, I want to remind everyone to take care of the mental aspect of your health as well.

Did you know that 1 in 5 adults experience mental illness each year? - *CDC, "About Mental Health," April 25, 2023.* When one member suffers from anxiety, depression, feelings of hopelessness, stress and the physical illnesses caused by it, remember that we are here to help.

These feelings are not unfamiliar in our society today. The Greeks tell a story about Sisyphus given the task of pushing a rock up a hill every day, only to have the rock roll back down to the bottom and start all over again. Pretty frustrating if you ask me...having the feeling of being unable to complete a task or to be stressed over a situation that leads to hopelessness.

We sometimes feel that our situation is stressful, or hopeless. That's why it is so important to deal with life's stress in a healthy way. Our members are not immune.

Examples: our families, friends and neighbors are dealing with illness, divorce, problems with our children, domestic violence, addiction, financial worries and being a part of the "sandwich generation." Sandwiched between caring for aging parents and raising our children.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Please do not just sweep these feelings under the rug. They don't just go away. Let's talk about how we can deal with stress in a good way. It's not always possible to escape a stressful situation or avoid a problem, but you can try to reduce the stress you are feeling.

Being physically active, even for 30 minutes a day, five days a week can increase positive feelings. Research shows that people who exercise regularly have better mental health and emotional well-being and lower rates of mental illness.

<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov>.

Another way to help with stress is to adopt a healthy diet. When confronted with stress, the central nervous system releases adrenaline and cortisol which affects the digestive tract in a negative way. No need to go vegan or swear off cookies, just aim to eat a variety of fruits and vegetables as part of your daily diet.

Try surrounding yourself with friends and family that will support you and help you solve issues. Other techniques that you can add to your life are relaxation. Relax your muscles with stretches, massages and warm baths or hot showers.

Also, practice deep breathing and make every effort to get enough sleep. This can be particularly challenging with shift work. Make sure everyone in the household knows your shift and how important sleep is to your health. Blackout curtains may help along with earplugs.

Also, don't forget your Stewards, Health and Safety Committee members and Union officers can help you. Although they are not medical professionals, they can advocate for you and point you in the right direction for help.

HELP IS AVAILABLE

USW Local 1123 is available for you, as well as President Willis McCoy, who has started a Round Table discussion group. They are scheduled on a Monday at 4:30 pm. This group will meet monthly with other members and officers, just to talk and keep that sense of camaraderie. For future dates, please see the USW Local 1123 Golden Lodge Facebook page.



WOS Golf Scramble for Clearview Hope

The Golden Lodge Women of Steel Golf Scramble to benefit Clearview Hope raised over \$4600. Renee Powell, founder of the charity says: "Clearview Hope gives assurance to women veterans who might feel as though they have been transparent. It is one way of thanking our women veterans for their service to our country through the game of golf."

First place; NRS Injury Law; Jeral Scneiberg, Ben Schneiberg, Sean Lions Jim Siominski

Second place; Dusty Kinsey, Josh Baity, Keith Kling, Lary Lawyer

Third place; Joe Sterling, Marlon Williamson, Jeff Cook, Jon Cook.

Thank you to all of our sponsors.

- USW District 1
- USW Local 1123
- USW Local 1-346
- USW Local 979
- Iron Workers Local 550
 - Metallus Inc.

- Hall of Fame Central Labor Council
AFL-CIO

We also appreciate the volunteers! Elsie Fox and Jo Marteney, for running the beer cart and raffle sales. Adam Holland for cooking the food. And a big thanks go out to Natalie Davis for getting us all the raffle baskets!



1st place team



2nd place team



3rd place team



Elsie and Jo



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

PARNELL BUCHANAN, Age 87, Dept. 190, passed away November 12th, 2017. Brother Buchanan joined the Union in 1949 and Retired in 1981.

CARL M. WILT, Age 67, Dept. 94, passed away October 28th, 2021. Brother Wilt joined the Union in 1973 and retired in 2003.

THOMAS J. MCKNIGHT, Age 72, Dept. 753, passed away April 30th, 2024. Brother McKnight joined the Union in 1971 and retired in 2001.

DONALD J. ADY, Age 62, Dept. 190, passed away June 1st, 2024. Brother Ady joined the Union in 1995 and retired in 2021.

ROGER E. BUZZO, Age 72, Dept. 62, passed away June 1st, 2024. Brother Buzzo joined the Union in 1973 and retired in 2002.

LOUIS GROSSI, Age 75, Dept. 753, passed away June 2nd, 2024. Brother Grossi joined the Union in 1972 and retired in 2005.

SANDRA E. DUNFEE, Age 82, Dept. 63, passed away June 4th, 2024. Sister Dunfee joined the Union in 1995 and retired in 2007.

DENNIS C. WUSKE, SR., Age 76, Dept. 129, passed away June 5th, 2024. Brother Wuske joined the Union in 1977 and retired in 2009.

MAX C. GROSSENBACHER, Age 76, Dept. 68, passed away June 6th, 2024. Brother Grossenbacher joined the Union in 1966 and retired in 2004.

JAMES F. ROSSETT, Age 89, Dept. 199, passed away June 10th, 2024. Brother Rossett joined the Union in 1963 and retired in 2000.

RICHARD T. KEATLEY, Age 85, Dept. 68, passed away June 15th, 2024. Brother Keatley joined the Union in 1956 and retired in 1998.

RONALD BATES, Age 81, Dept. 07, passed away June 22nd, 2024. Brother Bates joined the Union in 1962 and retired in 1999.

ROBERT J. ALLISON, Age 87, Wooster Plant, passed away June 23rd, 2024. Brother Allison joined the Union in 1966 and retired in 1996.

RANDAL EGAN, Age 66, Dept. 183, passed away June 23rd, 2024. Brother Egan joined the Union in 1977 and retired in 2013.

DAVID D. MURPHY, Age 75, Dept. 94, passed away June 26th, 2024. Brother Murphy joined the Union in 1966 and retired in 2000.

ELIZABETH R. NEWLAND, Age 81, Dept. 753, passed away June 30th, 2024. Sister Newland joined the Union in 1979 and retired in 2009.

MARK E. FAULK, Age 73, Dept. 185, passed away July 4th, 2024. Brother Faulk joined the Union in 1971 and retired in 2009.

ORVILLE L. PIGOTT, Age 98, Dept. 68, passed away July 10th, 2024. Brother Pigott joined the Union in 1953 and retired in 1986.

DAVID M. RITCHEY, Age 69, Dept. 97, passed away July 13th, 2024. Brother Ritchey joined the Union in 1974 and retired in 2005.

MARY JEAN SILVA, Age 91, Dept. 75, passed away July 16th, 2024. Sister Silva joined the Union in 1968 and retired in 1976.

RONNIE G. CAPES, Age 76, Dept. 76, passed away July 18th, 2024. Brother Capes joined the Union in 1966 and retired in 2002.

RICHARD R. MARINO, Age 82, Dept. 91, passed away July 26th, 2024. Brother Marino joined the Union in 1967 and retired in 1999.

JAMES O. MCCAULEY, Age 90, Dept. 185, passed away July 30th, 2024. Brother McCauley joined the Union in 1956 and retired in 1995.

STEVEN A. SCHUPBACH, Age 66, Dept. 129, passed away July 31st, 2024. Brother Schupbach joined the Union in 1979 and retired in 2010.

GERALD W. SMITH, SR., Age 78, Dept. 89, passed away August 2nd, 2024. Brother Smith joined the Union in 1964 and retired in 1999.

**DEATH LEAVES A HEARTACHE
NO ONE CAN HEAL
LOVE LEAVES A MEMORY
NO ONE CAN STEAL**



MARGARET A. AXE, Age 81, Dept. 75, passed away August 8th, 2024.
Sister Axe joined the Union in 1966 and retired in 1998.

GARY L. SCHMIDT, Age 83, Dept. 120, passed away August 9th, 2024.
Brother Schmidt joined the Union in 1959 and retired in 1994.

DAVID J. WRIGHT, Age 81, Dept. 74, passed away August 13th, 2024.
Brother Wright joined the Union in 1966 and retired in 2000.

JOSEPH M. FOMICH, Age 79, Dept. 67, passed away August 14th, 2024.
Brother Fomich joined the Union in 1964 and retired in 1997.

DOUGLAS C. RICE, Age 69, Dept. 190, passed away August 16th, 2024.
Brother Rice joined the Union in 1973 and retired in 2003.

RICHARD R. HARDIE, Age 75, Dept. 199, passed away August 19th, 2024.
Brother Hardie joined the Union in 1968 and retired in 2003.

Coming Events

Steward Classes

2nd Wednesday of the month

9:00 am / 4:30 pm

Regular Union Meeting

3rd Wednesday of the month

9:00 am / 4:30 pm

November 28-29 Thanksgiving

& Day After*

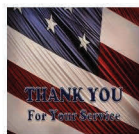
Paid Holiday

**Union negotiated benefit*

ATTENTION! ALL VETERANS

(Spouses welcome, too)
You are invited to a free

Veterans' Breakfast



Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024

9:00 am - 11:00 am

at the

Golden Lodge Union Hall

1234 Harrison Ave SW, Canton, Ohio

**Feel free to bring photos, memorabilia, etc.
to share with others.**

For more information call: 330.454.6137

Approved: Golden Lodge Executive Board, Exclusive Union Affairs

Recent Retirees

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

*Kevin Kreitzer Jeffery Taylor
Joseph Dillen Mary Jo Davies
Eugene Stewart Lorena Schmitz
Thomas Aquino Bruce Haney
Sheldon Kennedy*



September Wage Raises

Effective September 29, 2024, Metallus and the Timken Company employees will have their BLA negotiated raises rolled into their base wages.

EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 29, 2024		
JOB CLASS	METALLUS	TIMKEN CO.
1&2	28.961	28.516
3	29.248	28.806
4	29.535	29.198
5	29.821	29.385
6	30.104	29.673
7	30.393	29.965
8	30.676	30.252
9	30.958	30.538
10	31.247	30.830
11	31.530	31.117
12	31.817	31.407
13	32.098	31.692
14	32.385	31.983
15	32.671	32.272
16	32.959	32.564
17	33.241	32.849
18	33.530	33.142
19	33.814	33.429
20	34.099	33.719
21	34.381	34.004
22	34.669	34.295
23	34.954	34.585
24	35.240	34.874
25	35.524	35.162

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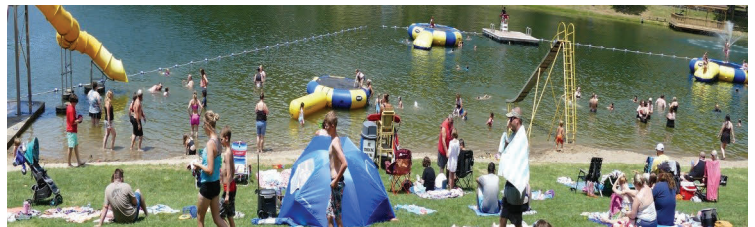
Golden Lodge Family Fun-Day

On June 25th the Golden Lodge hosted a Family Fun Day at Wood's Tall Timber Resort. It was a hot and humid day and many of the attendees enjoyed dipping in the swimming lake to cool off.

The Picnic Committee volunteers kept busy cooking and serving the crowd. When it came time for the drawings, the main lodge got crowded and the lucky winners collected their prizes.

Thanks goes out to all the volunteers who worked to set up this event and to the Golden Lodge membership who allocated the funds needed. Pictures can be found on our USW Local 1123 website, the USW Local Facebook page and our Flickr page.

[2024 Golden Lodge Picnic | Flickr](#)



Our Picnic Sponsors:

Please support these area businesses!

*Wood's Tall Timber Resort
AVI Food-Systems, Inc.
Grainger
Lindsey's Pizza
Bud's Corner
Poagie's BBQ
D3 Lake Erie Charters
Golden Circle Credit Union
LED Transportation
Mary Ann Donuts*

*Big Kahuna Graphics
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Richville Roadhouse
Nut House Saloon
Lighthouse Grill
Harmon's Pub
Ferraro's Restaurant
Dad's Car Wash
Rubber Ducks Tickets
THANK YOU ALL!!!!*