

“Official Newsletter”



Covering July-August-September 2020

Ryan Kieffer – President

Jack Maskil – Vice President

Justin Calderone – Recording Secretary

Jason Zugai – Financial Secretary

Mike Johnson – Treasurer

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A. Word from your Grievance Chair:

A few newsletters ago I wrote about us being through the worst of the Pandemic, and since it has been a rocky road for us. If you were to be quarantined and waiting for test results, you should sign up for unemployment. However, if you were to test positive, then you should get in touch with Broadspire and sign up for S&A. Hopefully we are nearing the end of this pandemic and can get back to our normal lives.

Earlier in the month Myself and a lot of the other Union Officials had to reach out to members about getting the documents in to the Company to keep their spouses on their benefits. When this first started we had several hundred members that still had not submitted paperwork in. Thanks to all your fast responses, we are now sitting at less than 50 members that still need to hand in paperwork. So, if anyone still must turn in the forms, we have everything at the Union Hall for you.

Last month myself and Bud Sterner (along with help from members from the Shops) heard a lot of grievances about contracting out. We are extremely excited to report that we were able to start keeping work inhouse instead of going out the door. We would like to think we are far from done on keeping more things in house, but we also need your help and input. So, feel free to reach out to us and explain what you think we can get done.

In 2018 there were a few Local Agreements that were made. One was a change in Maintenance incentive that has been paying out a lot more frequent as of the start of the year. Thanks to Bud Sterner, he was able to find out that all Production Maintenance was not getting the Incentive they were entitled to. Once we found out, it was an easy fix. All the members should have been made whole by now. The other Local Agreement that I would like to point out is the agreement that let bids be up for 7 days instead of 14 days. (The Company wanted this agreement) Since then this agreement has caused nothing but headaches for everybody involved, I went to the Company and came to an agreement that now allows bids to be up for 10 days now. (The 7 day period really screwed some members while on vacation) So while it is everyone's own responsibility to check for bids when looking to move, the Locals Facebook page is also posting bids that are up for bidding.

B. Safety:

Note from the Safety Committee:

During these unprecedented times, Covid has become a part of all our daily lives. We as a union from our President to our entire safety team have worked diligently towards making sure our workplace is safe for our entire union workforce. With winter coming soon and Flu-season upon us we all need to get ourselves more prepared. Take the extra time needed to help prevent yourselves from getting sick. The use of face coverings, washing your hands more often, hand sanitizers and wipes. These things we are trying our best to make available to our members. Please notify your safety reps and bosses when you are in need of any and all safety supplies. We are here to help you go home the same way as when you come to work. If we all do our part, we will all be remarkably successful.

Every union member and their families are in our prayers for the upcoming winter season.

Thank you all for working safely.

Sincerely Gary Picketts and all the USR's

C. 2227 Picnic Day:

Thank you to everyone who came out and participated in our picnic on September 26th, 2020.

Raffle Winners: Scotty Bender (Tee Shirt), Shannon Calderone (Tee Shirt), Steve Smithnosky (TV)

Thank You to everyone who came out and enjoyed the day.



D. Next Gen:

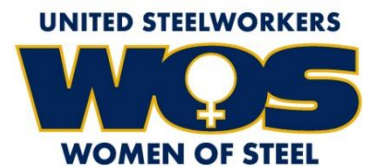
Next Gen will be holding a road cleanup day on November 10th, 2020 from 7am to 11am. We will be cleaning Phillip Murray Road. If you would like to volunteer please reach out to one of our committee members (Erik Berggren, Bob Pelehac, Sean Ritson, Mike Bibel, Justin Calderone). Lunch will be provided.



E. Women of Steel

Blood Drive: Donating blood gives strength, hope, and courage to our community and to those who need it most. Due to our efforts we were able to register 36 donors and collect 44 blood products.

Our Next Blood Drive will be on December 16, 2020



F. Veterans Committee:

Veterans Committee will be holding a gate collection on November 11th, 2020. These funds will be used to honor local membership veterans.



G. Hardship Fund:

Are you in the Hardship fund?

What is the Hardship fund?

If you contribute \$3 a pay into the fund you are eligible to receive \$150 a month in Giant Eagle gift cards when out of work due to S&A, lay-off, etc. For full details and a form to sign up, contact Chris Glessner.

H. 3 Did You Knows:

1. Irvin Works was announced on May 22, 1937 and opened in phases starting on March 2, 1938 while being dedicated on December 15, 1938 for U.S. Steel and was constructed by Mesta Machinery. U.S. Steel has claimed that construction of the hilltop site required more cubic yards of earth moved (4.4 million cubic yards) than any project other than the Panama Canal. The cost of the construction of the facility was estimated at \$63 million (\$1.14 billion today). It produced its 80 millionth ton of steel in 1981 with a workforce of 4,000 that year.

2. The Naming of Phillip Murray Road was named after Philip Murray. (May 25, 1886 – November 9, 1952) was a Scottish-born steelworker and an American labor leader. He was the first president of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee (SWOC), the first president of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA), and the longest-serving president of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO).

The History: Little Steel capitulated to SWOC in the spring of 1941. Walkouts involving tens of thousands of workers and adverse court rulings led to elections at Bethlehem Steel, Youngstown Sheet and Tube, and Inland Steel, and huge majorities voted for the union. Republic Steel quietly signed contracts soon thereafter. SWOC soon had more members than the United Mine Workers, further alienating Murray and Lewis.

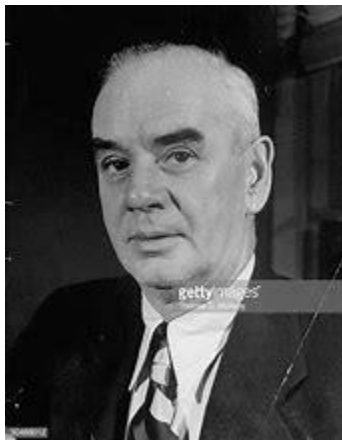
The victories at Little Steel led Murray to transform SWOC into a real union. SWOC was disbanded at a convention held in Cleveland, Ohio, on May 22, 1942. A new organization, the United Steel Workers of America (USWA), was founded. Murray was USWA's first president. David J. McDonald, Murray's long-time aide at SWOC, became the number two man at SWOC, often running the union's day-to-day business. Together, they ran the union in a highly centralized manner that was not very democratic. All dues flowed to the national office in Pittsburgh, and the right to negotiate contracts and conduct job actions was strictly controlled. Such actions were justified, Murray argued, in light of the vigorous resistance to the union displayed by steelmakers.

3. Our Union Hall can be rented to members and nonmembers.

Member Pricing - \$175 All Day Hall Rental

Nonmember Pricing - \$400 All Day Hall Rental

\$300 Deposit for Member and Nonmember



I. Upcoming ICD Classes:

Taxes in Retirement (20FL) Location: Mon Valley Works ICD	Wed	10/07/2020	4:00 PM-6:00 PM - Finance
Introduction to Damascus (20FL) Location: Takach Forge	Sat	10/10/2020	8:00 AM-4:00 PM - Trade Skills
Drone – New Rules (20FL) Mon Location Mon Valley Works ICD		10/12/2020	8:30 AM-11:30 AM - Personal Enrichment
Drone – New Rules (20FL) Mon Location: Mon Valley Works ICD		10/12/2020	4:00 PM-7:00 PM - Personal Enrichment
Epoxy Countertops (20FL) Tue Location: Mon Valley Works ICD		10/13/2020	8:30 AM-11:30 AM - Trade Skills
Epoxy Countertops (20FL) Tue Location: Mon Valley Works ICD		10/13/2020	4:00 PM-7:00 PM - Trade Skills
Chef’s Knife (20FL) Location: Takach Forge	Sat	10/17/2020	8:00 AM-4:00 PM - Trade Skills
Entrepreneur’s Edge (20FL) Location: Online Course	Tue	10/27/2020	3:00 PM-6:00 PM - Finance
Certified Production Technician Assessment (20FL) Course	Thu	10/29/2020	1:00 PM-3:00 PM - Trade Skills Location: Online
Autodesk Inventor (20FL) Mon Location: Westmoreland County Community College		11/09/2020	5:00 PM-9:00 PM - Industrial Technology
Certified Production Technician Assessment (20FL) Course	Mon	11/16/2020	5:00 PM-7:00 PM - Trade Skills Location: Online
Entrepreneur’s Edge (20FL) Location: Online Course	Mon	12/14/2020	3:00 PM-6:00 PM - Finance
Certified Production Technician Assessment (20FL) Course	Thu	12/17/2020	1:00 PM-3:00 PM - Trade Skills Location: Online

Starting January 2021 every Newsletter will contain 3 Random Members who will win a Union Swag Bag by coming up the hall and claiming their prize.



J. WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SCAR, DISFIGUREMENT AND SPECIFIC LOSS CLAIMS

by Tom Smith and Rhett Cherkin

Benefits for scarring, disfigurement, and loss of use of an extremity are payable in addition to any wage benefits that an injured worker may receive due to a work-related injury. Even if the injured worker goes back to work after the injury and does not miss any days from work, he or she may still qualify for these specific workers' compensation benefits. Claims for a scar, disfigurement, loss of use of an extremity or loss of hearing are generally referred to as "specific loss" claims.

Scar and disfigurement benefits:

A worker is entitled to benefits if their work injury causes permanent scarring, discoloration or disfigurement to the head, neck, or face. Scars on the head, neck or face resulting from surgical procedures which are required due to a work-related injury also entitle the worker to benefits. Often when an injured worker sustains an injury to their cervical spine which requires surgery, the worker will be left with a neck scar. Even a scar that you feel is minor or not easily visible, could entitle you to additional benefits.

The Workers' Compensation Act provides for an award of up to 275 weeks of compensation for scar and disfigurement claims. Because there is no set formula to rely on to determine how many weeks of benefits will be awarded, it is important to have an experienced workers' compensation attorney advocating for your claim. Computing the amount of an award is as easy as multiplying the number of weeks awarded by the workers' compensation rate. For example, if an individual's workers' compensation rate is \$500 and he or she is awarded 25 weeks of benefits, then the worker would be entitled to an award of \$12,500.

A scar or disfigurement claim must be reported to the employer within 120 days. It is essential that you give prompt notice of your scar or disfigurement. A delay in reporting could mean that you will lose out on pursuing a claim for these benefits. There is a presumption that a scar will be permanent 6 months after the injury or surgery. Every case is different but here are some helpful tips:

- Do not delay in reporting your scar or disfigurement claim to your employer as you must give notice within 120 days of the work injury.
- Even a very minor scar or disfigurement on one's face, head or neck can entitle the worker to benefits.
- Because there is no set formula to calculate the amount of benefits to be awarded, you will need an experienced workers' compensation attorney on your side.
- Sometimes it is helpful to submit professional photographs of your scar to the Workers' Compensation Judge hearing your claim. We can arrange for and pay the costs for such photographs.

The attorneys at Caroselli Beachler & Coleman have years of experience evaluating, settling, and litigating claims for scars and disfigurement. We offer free consultations and would be happy to evaluate your potential claim at a location convenient to you. We are also offering video-calls to safely discuss claims.

Loss of use of extremities:

An injured worker can also seek benefits for the permanent loss of use due to an injury to one's hand, forearm, arm, fingers, leg, foot or toes. The worker does not have to have suffered an amputation or the complete loss of use of a body part in order to qualify for these benefits. If the injured worker has lost the meaningful use of a finger or toe for example, they could still be entitled to benefits. These benefits are payable even if the worker does not miss time from work due to the work injury.

Unlike benefits for scars and disfigurement, the Legislature has assigned a value to each body part, and the worker is paid a certain number of weeks of benefits depending on the body part involved. The worker will also receive benefits for a healing period. It is often necessary to submit medical proof of the loss of use and your attorney can help obtain any necessary reports or testimony from your doctors.

Hearing loss:

Hearing loss is also considered a specific loss benefit. If a worker sustains permanent, total, or partial loss of hearing as a result of exposure to noise in the workplace, hearing loss benefits may be payable. The hearing loss injury could be the result of either long-term exposure to noise in the workplace or an acoustic trauma or head injury. There is a three-year statute of limitation on filing a hearing loss claim which requires that all such claims be filed within three years of the last date the worker was exposed to hazardous occupational noise. These claims can be brought after a worker retires, as long as the claim is filed within three years of the date of the last exposure to occupational noise. There is a 120 day notice requirement that must be met once you have been told by a doctor that you have a work-related hearing loss. If you suspect you may have a work-related hearing loss, you should contact a workers' compensation attorney to discuss your potential claim.

Whether you are seeking benefits for a scar, disfigurement, loss of use of an extremity or hearing loss, the experienced workers' compensation attorneys at Caroselli Beachler & Coleman are here to assist you from the initial consultation through the completion of your claim. For your free consultation concerning any scar, disfigurement, loss of use of an extremity or hearing loss claim, contact us at 1-800-222-8816.

CAROSELLI BEACHLER & COLEMAN, LLC

**REPRESENTING INJURED PERSON AND THEIR FAMILIES THROUGHOUT WESTERN PA SINCE
1972.**

NO FEES UNLESS DAMAGES ARE RECOVERED.

LOCAL APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE.

412-391-9860

1-800-222-8816

Around the Mill

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CONVEYOR
 SAFETY
 ANNEAL
 COIL
 WELDER
 REDUCTION
 TRACTOR
 CRANE
 GALVANIZED
 PICKLE
 TEMPER
 SLAB
 ROLL
 SHIP

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