

# Local 2227 News

“OFFICAL NEWSLETTER OF YOUR LOCAL UNION”



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A. From the President's Desk

B. A Word from Your  
Grievance Chair

Trustee Position is now open,  
put your name in before July  
10<sup>th</sup> at the union hall, vote will  
be on July 14<sup>th</sup>.

## USW Local 2227

1301 Phillip Murray Rd  
West Mifflin, Pa 15122

Ryan Kieffer - President  
Jack Maskil - Vice President  
Justin Calderone - Recording Secretary  
Jason Zugai - Financial Secretary  
Mike Johnson - Treasurer

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*A. From the Presidents Desk*



Well that was a second quarter to remember! We went from a strong first quarter, to getting slammed with a pandemic, and orders completely tanking. June has picked up slightly and time will tell . We are hopeful that the economy gets back to normal and all our employess return from layoff. As of June 21 we have 3 out on regular layoff and that is due to low order books in the Galvanize department. With that being said I want to thank the membership for their patience and participation during this time. We have seen things from a health and safety standpoint that has never been seen here before and we got through it together. Thank you to all that helped with your ideas and communication. Good job once again to our Union Safety reps and also to our members who stepped up and took care of the janitorial work during this time. It is much appreciated!

Union meetings have been cancelled due the pandemic and we are looking to reopen in July. During this time our trustees have been busy getting work done inside the union hall. The place is looking great and we always look to improve. Stop up and take a look.

Keep working safe and I'll see you in the mill,  
President Ryan Kieffer

*B. A WORD FROM YOUR GRIEVANCE CHAIR*

The Company approached Ryan Kieffer and myself in the first week of June about another vacation shutdown notice that would've been good for 3 weeks. We were not happy at all about the thought of losing yet another week of vacation, but fortunately the company came to us on June 10<sup>th</sup> and said there will be no need to do another notice.

The reason of the notice not being needed was because business (yet still needing a long way to go) is picking back up. COVID19 has certainly put a damper on our whole entire country, but it seems we are on the other side of the pandemic. There needs to be a lot of thanks to all of the Bargaining Unit for working through this pandemic and not having one case, or discipline case for not wearing the proper PPE.

Touching on 2 points that were hot topics the past few months, I just want to say that in the next round of negotiations we seriously need to have conversations about hazard pay and getting rid of the forced vacation language. Obviously, the hazard is a top table conversation, but the conversation about vacations must be handles sooner than later.

A little bit on the safety scoreboard out there. I see a lot of 0's on there for Irvin. Keep up the great work with that Brothers and Sisters. That just shows that Gary Picketts and his committee are doing a fantastic job.

In Solidarity,

Grievance Chair Dave Morgan



## A. Project Icon

A new agreement was worked out for manning the new hot mill down Edgar Thompson Plant. We must start out this conversation that as “Members of Local 2227” and “Employees of USS Irvin Works” we had no rights to man any facility at any other plants but our own. Our local worked hard on fighting to save jobs for our current members even though it meant losing our members to another local. With the much-appreciated help of our Union Brothers from Edgar Thompson we worked out an agreement with the company to transfer “willing” affected employees to the new facility. This agreement can be found on our local website: <https://uswlocals.org/local-2227>

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## B. Memorandum of Backpay

On May 1<sup>st</sup> we (USW Local 2227, 1557, and 1219) signed a memorandum of understanding on how backpay is to be calculated in the future. We know in the past backpay used to be high man low man and split the difference. However, there was no language and no agreements to force the company to continue with that process. The company started hand picking the comparable and obviously we know the outcome of the scenario.

Chris Carpenter (1557 Chairman) Rob Hutchinson (1219 Chairman) Dave Morgan (2227 Chairman) worked on this for several months and finally came to an agreement that is very favorable to the Bargaining Unit. The agreement now will pay you the difference of overtime from the unit you were held in to the unit you transfer to, plus the difference in incentive. (Example: if you're held in the hot mill and the overtime percentage is at 10% and have a bid to the cold mill where the overtime percentage is at 25%, you will be paid the 15% overtime plus incentive difference for the time you were held hostage.) There were numerous people at all 3 plants that were owed backpay when this agreement was finally reached. The outcome of the backpay amounts were staggering. In one week, the union forced the company to pay almost \$60,000 in backpay at Irvin works alone.

The 3 Grievance Chairman worked hard to get this deal done. We have now forced the company to pay backpay the same way at all 3 plants while also being paid in a fair way. Hopefully this will open some eyes and the company will start training more and releasing faster. Basically, we just want management to do their jobs instead of taking the easy way out and just hold people hostage.

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## C. Committee Events/Reports

### The Next Gen Committee:

- Local Golf Outing will be postponed until 2021
  - Local 2227 Members Cookout is still in the works for this summer
  - On June 16<sup>th</sup> our Next Gen Committee donated \$250 worth of cereal to the Ronald McDonald House of Pittsburgh along with a few toys. (Cereal is one of the biggest consumptions at the RMH due to kids staying there and parents with little time in the morning to eat before they go to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh to start their day.
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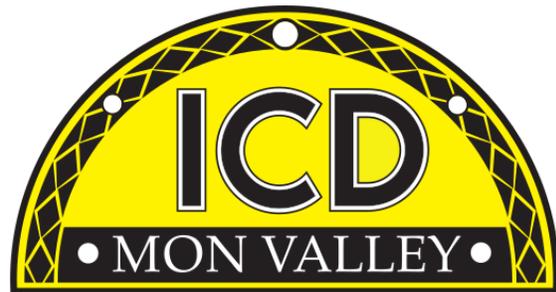
C. (continued)

Women of Steel Committee:

They would like to hold a future meeting to get everyone together to discuss future topics and issues. A Blood drive was in the works but has been delayed due to Covid19.

ICD Committee:

Due to the pandemic ICD has been moved to “online only” classes. You can visit their website and see what available at [www.monvalleyicd.com](http://www.monvalleyicd.com). Interested in learning something that is offered? Find 5 guys interested in the class and ICD will make it happen.



Contracting Out Committee:

The committee is looking at a list the company gave us of all work being done by contractors inside and outside of the plant and seeing what, if any work can be done inhouse. This is in the interest of our maintenance to recapture and maintain more work for our membership.

We also have a few more members that were added to this committee to help with this and future projects. (Graham Mitchell, Ed Buechl, and Art Hillikar.)

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D. Message from Safety

During these past several months with Covid19 being another hurdle for our membership to deal with, along with many other distractions. We have had to get through layoffs and uncertainty of job security our members have stepped up and as of June 18<sup>th</sup> have a streak of 83 days without an Osha Recordable. With so many distractions at these times and the heat of summer upon us, this is a great accomplishment. Each and everyone of our members should be congratulated for this. So, remember at these times during the summer to stay hydrated, drink lots of water and keep looking out for our Union Brothers and Sister.

In Solidarity,  
Thank you from your Safety Team

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E.

Mini Minutes:

*April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - Meeting Cancelled*

*May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - Meeting Cancelled*

*June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - Meeting Cancelled*

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Trying to sell something?

Put it in the newsletter.

Drop off info at Union Hall.

Ad Space will be on a first come first serve basis.