

THE PULSE

<https://uswlocals.org/local-9460>

voice of United Steelworkers Local 9460, the Northland's healthcare workers' union



NEW SOAR CHAPTER BEING LAUNCHED!

The Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR) was founded in 1985. Since then, SOAR has been integral to our union's mission by helping defend vital programs like Social Security and Medicare, protecting our pensions, and more.

Membership in SOAR is not limited to retired USW members. Spouses of retired USW members are also eligible to join, and SOAR's by-laws were amended in 2019 to welcome any like-minded individual, age 45 or over, who agrees with and supports the guiding principles and programs of the organization and our union.

At our 30th International Conven-

tion, we voted unanimously to add an amendment to the USW Constitution recognizing SOAR as an affiliate organization. The amendment also encouraged the formation of local SOAR chapters, establishing direct communication between the local union and the chapter and gave SOAR chapter leaders input into negotiations on retiree issues.

With the establishment of SOAR, our union solidified its focus on the unique issues impacting USW retirees and their spouses. Further, SOAR has been engaged in countless efforts to assure security for current and future generations of retirees, regardless of whether they belong to a union.

These efforts include, but are not limited to grassroots lobbying for things like Social Security, Medi-

care, health & safety legislation and partnering with the various USW campaigns and other committees—from Rapid Response to the USW Civil and Human Rights Department.

Together with our friends at USW Local 1028, our local is currently trying to set up a SOAR chapter. It has been many years since a SOAR chapter existed in our area, and there was never one that was specifically connected to our local and healthcare workers.

To help jump start this new SOAR chapter, our local recently voted to cover the first year dues (dues are \$12 a year) for any of our members who would like to join!

If you, your spouse, co-workers or any USW retirees that you know would like to join, you can do by filling out this coupon:

JOIN SOAR!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Clip and mail to USW Local 9460, 2002 London Road #200, Duluth MN 55812

COVID VACCINE MANDATE UPDATE

While the United Steelworkers are pro-vaccine, we are opposed to any kind of mandate that will cost our members their jobs.

We are in continuous talks with both St. Luke's and Essentia Health, who have both announced COVID-19 mandates. There are going to be more discussions to come. To date, neither employer has agreed to rescind their vaccine mandation or delay the deadlines, but they are both offering medical and religious exemptions, that from what we've seen, appear to be following the EEOC guidelines.

We plan to continue discussions about what constitutes an exemption, requirements for remote workers and of course, the upcoming federal government mandation guidelines that will be published by the CDC. Both employers continue to urge workers to regularly check their intranets for additional information about the vaccine mandates.

CALENDAR:

Monthly Membership Mtgs:
Our membership meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. We meet at 5:30pm in Hall A, in the basement of the Duluth Labor Temple.

FREE COLLEGE BENEFIT

With the rising cost of education, it's getting harder and harder for working class folks to send their kids to college. That is why our local started its annual scholarship program (which we'll be sending out materials on for 2022 early in the new year). It's also why our



International Union is now offering a benefit for a free associates online degree. The degrees are through the Eastern Gateway Community College, and they can be signed up for by any USW member or dependent, anywhere in the country.

Here is a list of some of the available programs:

Cyber Security • Programming and Development • Digital and Social Media • Data Analytics • Project Management • Operations and Logistics • Human Resources • IT Help Desk • Labor Studies and more!

To learn more, or to sign up, visit the USW Free College site at:



<https://freecollege.usw.org/>

UNION UPDATES

LAKE SUPERIOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER SUPPORT STAFF: We are currently in contract negotiations for this unit. Stay tuned for a future announcement about a tentative agreement and vote. This is our last contract negotiations of 2021.

STEWARDS: We are always on the lookout for more union stewards. It's our goal to eventually have at least one steward in every department, and we have a long way to go in making that goal. If you're interested in becoming a steward, the Local union is going to start up new steward trainings this Fall. The trainings are a day long. We put in a time off request for you with your employer, and providing it gets approved, we cover your lost wages. Contact us to sign up!

