



## HII Benefits Annual

Open Enrollment is April 20 - May 1

You Must Declare Your Smoking Status or  
You Will be Charged the Smoker's Rate

[hiibenefits.com](http://hiibenefits.com) or 1-877-216-3222 (9a-6p, M-F)  
Digital Benefits Consultant "ALEX" [myalex.com/hii/2020/hiibenefits](http://myalex.com/hii/2020/hiibenefits)

## Corona Virus Pandemic Causes Upheaval

The Corona Virus Pandemic has caused an unprecedented situation in the Shipyard. The conditions seem to change every day, along with the expectations placed upon us at work and the options we have to protect ourselves, our co-workers and our families. Many of us do not know what to expect going forward. New questions are raised every day. Let us try to address some of them here.

**The Shipyard will not shutdown.** At this time, the decision to close operations at the shipyard is out of our hands. Newport News Shipbuilding has been declared an essential industry and our work here will continue, even as we continue to make changes to how we operate. The company makes its decisions based on preserving productivity and production. We at the Union represent the workers to remind them that those things depend on our continued health and well-being as well as the risk we incur every day we come to work in spite of the CDC and Governors Guidance to "Stay At Home." Discussions are ongoing concerning mitigation of risk and compensation for those of us who take it upon ourselves to come to work while the company management works from home.

In order to protect ourselves and our families, particularly those at increased risk, many of us have reluctantly had to stay at home. The new form released with Liberal Leave states specific situations that could qualify an employee for unemployment benefits while out on leave. Members who take significant leave should contact the Special Benefits Committee, as their Delta Dental or Aflac insurance may be effected.

Your Union Leadership is in continuous discussions with the Virginia State Government, National Representatives, the Virginia Employment Commission and company management to address the issues that effect us every day at work. All of these take time, and this crisis has lead to the situation becoming very reactionary. Things change suddenly, please be patient during this trying time.



**Executive Board**  
**President-Charles Spivey**  
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**Grievance Chairman-Harvey Bowden**

#### **Office**

4306 Huntington Avenue, Newport News, Virginia 23607  
 Phone: 247-5291 / Fax: 247-0321

Voyager E-mail: [voyager@uswa.hrcoxmail.com](mailto:voyager@uswa.hrcoxmail.com)

**Office Hours:** Daily 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**United Steelworkers AFL-CIO-CLC**

**District Director - Ernest(Billy) Thompson**

#### **International Officers**

Thomas Conway, President • John Shinn, Sec/Treasurer  
 David McCall, Vice-President, Administration  
 Fred Redmond, Vice-President, Human Affairs  
[www.usw8888.com](http://www.usw8888.com)

**Office:** Five Gateway Center, Pittsburgh, PA 15222



#### **Contributing Staff**

**Aaron McCann X43, Staff Member**  
**Jordan Patterson X33, Staff Member**

The Voyager is published by Local 8888, Newport News.

The Voyager is distributed free of charge to employees of  
 Huntingdon Ingalls Industries by Local 8888 USW.

#### **Deadline Reminder:**

Please remember that all information, articles and material to be included in the next "Voyager" must be delivered in writing to the Union Hall or emailed by Friday, April 24, 2020 "The Voyager" email address is: [voyager@uswa.hrcoxmail.com](mailto:voyager@uswa.hrcoxmail.com)



## **From the President's Desk** Charles Spivey

Greetings Union Brothers and Sisters:

I pray that you and your family members are doing well. Our nation, as a whole, is enduring a rough time dealing with the Corona Virus (COVID-19). Many of you have been following precautionary measures and following the Government's guidelines and that of the CDC.

The workers here at the shipyard are facing hard decisions as well as the Union leaders and company leaders, on how to keep safe and protect yourself while providing for your families. A lot of you have taken advantage of the liberal leave offered by the company, to stay home and socially distance as directed by the CDC. Many of you are exhausting your leave time to do this.

I stated we are in a difficult time and some are beginning to panic listening to the horrible news of victims being exposed and succumbing to this strange virus. This has caused us to alter or change from doing business as normal. COVID-19 has caused closings on the local, state and national levels. All state schools are closed along with many government offices. In order to support our members, our local Union office is not closed. However, we have staggered shifts and hours to support social distancing. We are here for our members and we are doing everything we know to do to help. Are we perfect in all that we do? NO! We are not in a labor dispute with the company. We are in a national pandemic. Something we have never had to deal with before. Something unfamiliar to all involved. So please be patient and bear with us as we stumble our way through this. As a leader and member for over forty years, I have never desired to leave this Union or get out no matter how upset I was or how difficult times may have become. I believe in being Union Strong, standing, and fighting through difficulties just like this Union is doing. United we stand, divided we fall. This too shall pass.

*Continued on Page 3*

I have had numerous phone conversations with politicians, both on the state and national level, who are ensuring that financial help is coming. I've also contacted the VEC employment commissioner as well.

Stay connected with us. Calling by phone is not the only way to reach us. We send out bi-weekly E-Blasts to all our members who are signed up to receive it. If you have not done so, sign up with your name and email address so we will have your information in our database and you will receive information when we receive it.

Stay strong and stay safe. God Bless You and Your Family.

Solidarity Forever

Charles Spivey  
President Local 8888  
(757)247-5291 xt 111



## Visit your Local online!

WWW.USW8888.ORG

FACEBOOK.COM/USWL8888

TWITTER.COM/USWL8888

INSTAGRAM.COM/USWL8888

YOUTUBE.COM/USWL8888

TEXT

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To

47486

To Recieve

Mobile

Alerts



## Special Benefits Committee

Verna M. Chamberliss, Chair, X42

### DELTA DENTAL OPEN ENROLLMENT SIGN UP PERIOD JUNE 1 THRU JULY 31, 2020

Coverage Effective October 1, 2020

Information available at your Local Union Hall  
Every Wednesday and Thursday 8 AM - 4:30 PM

During the sign up period.

**The two Plans offered with no rate or benefit  
changes are**

**Delta Dental PPO**

**And**

**Delta Dental EPO Plan**

**USW LOCAL 8888**

**4306 Huntington Avenue**

**Newport News, VA 23607**

**Contact Special Benefits at (757)247-5291 ext 118**

You do not need to complete a new enrollment form UNLESS YOU ARE MAKING CHANGES;

All New Enrollees Will Be Eligible for Exciting Prize Drawings

**IMPORTANT!!!**

**UNION MEMBERS MUST NOTIFY THE UNION TO TERMINATE  
COVERAGE IF YOU TERMINATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND/OR  
EMPLOYMENT, RETIRE, BECOME SALARIED, GO OUT ON SICK/  
ACCIDENT/DISABILITY OR NO LONGER WANT COVERAGE.**

### Aflac BENEFITS FOR USW LOCAL 8888 Open Enrollment

**ALL AFLAC POLICIES PAY CASH  
BENEFITS**

**DIRECTLY TO THE POLICYHOLDER**

**Hospital Plan** – pays cash benefits to you  
when confined in the hospital for any  
reason.

**Life Insurance** – With “ratelock” – builds  
cash value – keep it your whole life! Even  
through retirement – available for family.

**Disability** – Pays from 1<sup>st</sup> Day for  
accidents – after 7 days for Sickness.

**Critical Illness** – Pays \$15,000 for  
listed critical illnesses (Heart Attack –  
Stroke – Cancer, etc.)

**Accident** – pays benefits for covered  
accidents that happen on or off the  
job.

**NEW DATES!**

**All New Enrollees will be Eligible for Exciting Prize Drawings**

**Enrollment – JUNE 3<sup>rd</sup> thru JULY 31<sup>ST</sup>**

**Coverage Effective – SEPT. 1, 2020**

Information Available at your Union Hall – every Wednesday & Thursday – 8 AM to 4:30 PM

You do not have to re-enroll if you do not want to make changes

Phone: (757) 247 – 5291 ext. 118

**CHECK THIS OUT!**





# CENSUS 2020

YOU MATTER, BE COUNTED!

[www.nnva.gov/census](http://www.nnva.gov/census)



Beginning in March, you'll receive notices to complete the 2020 Census. **Please respond online, by mail or phone.** Your responses are confidential and cannot be shared. This count of everyone living in the country is used to determine local funding for important services, such as:

- ✓ Schools and educational programs
- ✓ Roads and highways
- ✓ Medicare and Medicaid
- ✓ Health clinics
- ✓ Housing support
- ✓ Supplemental programs, including SNAP and WIC
- ✓ Energy assistance
- ✓ Attracting new businesses
- ✓ Drawing federal, state and local legislative districts



Shape  
your future  
START HERE >

United States®  
Census  
2020

# CENSO 2020

USTED IMPORTA, SEA CONTADO!

[www.nnva.gov/census](http://www.nnva.gov/census)



A partir de marzo, recibirá avisos para completar el Censo del 2020. **Responda en línea, por correo o por teléfono.** Sus respuestas son confidenciales y no se pueden compartir. Este conteo de todas las personas que viven en el país se utiliza para determinar la financiación local de servicios importantes, como:

- ✓ Escuelas y programas educativos
- ✓ Caminos y carreteras
- ✓ Medicare y Medicaid
- ✓ Clínicas de salud
- ✓ Apoyo de vivienda
- ✓ Programas suplementarios, incluyendo SNAP y WIC
- ✓ Asistencia energética
- ✓ Atrayendo nuevos negocios
- ✓ Delineando distritos legislativos federales, estatales y locales



Dale forma  
a tu futuro  
EMPIEZA AQUÍ >

United States®  
Census  
2020

**Benefits & Wellness**

**SAVE TIME AND MONEY  
BY AVOIDING THE ER.**

**H** Huntington  
Ingalls  
Industries



**TELADOC**

24/7/365 access to board-certified doctors via phone or video conference

Create an account before your need care:  
[teladoc.com/hii](http://teladoc.com/hii) or call 1-800-TELADOC



**HII FAMILY HEALTH CENTER**

Easy access to convenient health care

For appointments:  
[myquadmedical.com/hii](http://myquadmedical.com/hii)

Newport News VA:

757.327.4200

Gautier MS:

228.205.7700



**URGENT CARE CENTER**

In-town care for non-emergency illnesses or injuries

Find an urgent care center near you:

[provider.bcbs.com](http://provider.bcbs.com)



**EMERGENCY ROOM / 911**

Treatment for life-threatening injuries or symptoms

If you have an emergency dial 911, or go to the nearest emergency room.

**\$10**

**\$15**

**\$20-\$250**

**\$250 +**

Write in your primary care provider's phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Pricing for urgent care centers and emergency room visits are approximate and vary based on your individual plan and services rendered.



# Announcements

## BIRTHDAYS

Terri Cowan (X-31) - Apr. 5  
James Johnson (X-32) - Apr. 6  
Charles Spivey (Pres.) - Apr. 25

In order to protect our members and the public, as well as comply with CDC Guidance: All Community Outreach and Social Events, as well as Monthly Membership Meetings are postponed for the duration of the crisis. This includes the election of delegates for the International USW Constitutional Convention, the Summer Institute and Biggest Loser Contest and Wellness Fair. Please watch for more information going forward on our website and social media.

## Resources For SteelWorkers

USW International  
COVID-19 [www.usw.org/members/coronavirus-resources](http://www.usw.org/members/coronavirus-resources)  
Resources Page

COVID-19 Phone Line 1-844-243-8749  
Press "2" For Medical Clearance/ Badge Re-Activation  
Press "3" For Temporary Flexible Work Arrangements

TELADOC [teladoc.com](http://teladoc.com)  
24/7, 365 Doctor Consultation 1-800-835-2362  
\$10 Fee Waived for General Medicine and Behavior Consultations

Sickness and Accident  
Leave of Absence 688-3800

FMLA and COVID-19 Medical Leave  
May Require Documentation 688-8006  
Contact Labor Relations

Kashable [www.kashable.com](http://www.kashable.com)  
Payroll Deduction Loans 646-663-4353  
From \$250 - \$20,000 [support@kashable.com](mailto:support@kashable.com)

All Union Services and Committees remain available for our members. However we are not allowing walk-in consultations at this time. Please call the Union Hall (247-5291) ahead of time to make an appointment with the appropriate Committee, leave a message with your Name, Phone Number, and a brief summary of your concern. Please be patient during this trying time.



**Saturday, April 18, 2020**  
**Monthly Membership Meeting**  
**-CANCELED-**

**Deadline for**  
**"Voyager" will be April 24, 2020**



**April 5th Easter Egg Hunt**  
**-CANCELED-**

**April 25th Blood Drive**  
**-POSTPONED-**

## **\*\*IMPORTANT\*\***

Union members must notify the Union to terminate coverage.  
If you terminate your membership and/or employment, retire, become salaried, go out on Sick/ Accident/ disability or no longer want Dental/Aflac coverage.



# INJURED AT THE SHIPYARD?



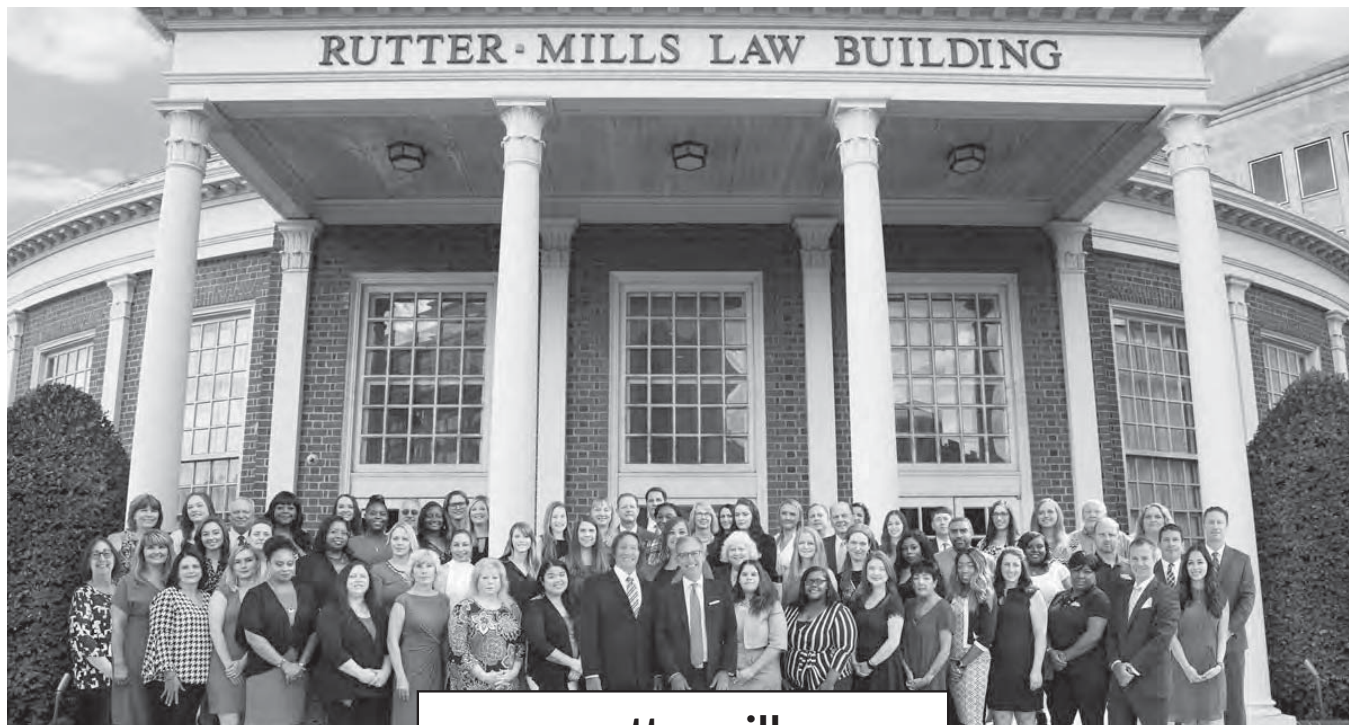
CALL OR TEXT US

**757.622.5000**

We've fought and won thousands of cases  
for injured shipyard workers.

When you are injured, your employer is no longer calling the shots on your workers' compensation claim - its large corporate insurance company is. That's why you need a serious law firm with the size, reputation, and experience to fight for you and win your case. For decades, we've been helping injured shipyard workers get the compensation they deserve. If you want the best decision at the end of your case, make the best decision now.

Choose Rutter Mills.



[www.ruttermills.com](http://www.ruttermills.com)

4702 Washington Ave, Newport News, VA 23607



**TOP LAWYERS OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION:**



**Charlene A. Morring**

Have you checked out the article online regarding Attorney Morring? Morring Law continues its' fight for injured workers and the disabled. If you or a loved one needs an experienced attorney, call Morring Law at 1-855-MOR-COMP.

**Here's a snippet of the article:**

When Charlene Morring was asked about why she chose to pursue worker compensation she answered by saying "[Growing up], my father was a very hard worker. I saw him get injured at work like three or four times, it was crazy."

**Questions? Give our office a call. We are here to FIGHT for you!**

Phone No: (757) 223-1107

Licensed in Virginia and North Carolina

[www.morringlaw.com](http://www.morringlaw.com)

# Montagna Klein Camden, LLP

757-622-8100

*Counselors at law*

757-380-8100



**Anthony Montagna, Charles Montagna, Lance Jackson, Jon Montagna, Gregory Camden & John Klein**

## **WHY CONCURRENT JURISDICTION MATTERS (continued)?**

**RATINGS:** Both Acts provide for disability ratings to be paid for loss of use of the arms, hands, legs, feet, eyes and ears. However, under the Longshore Act, the injury must actually occur to the above listed body parts. However, under the Virginia Act, if the injury is to a different body part, but effects the above listed body parts, a rating can be paid.

For instance, the physical labor performed by Longshoremen and Shipyard Workers commonly causes rotator cuff tears. This injury is to the shoulder, but often results in limitation in the use of the arm, especially lifting the arm above shoulder level. Under the Virginia Act, the injured worker can recover for loss of the use of the arm. Under the Longshore Act, the injured workers recover nothing.

**FUNERAL EXPENSES:** The cap for funeral expenses under the Virginia Act is \$10,000. Under the Longshore Act, the cap is \$3,000. It is impossible for a spouse to say goodbye to their loved one for \$3,000.

**MEDICAL TREATMENT:** The Longshore Act has a harsh medical fee schedule. Effective July 1, 2012 one of the biggest orthopedic practices in Hampton Roads stopped taking patients who come under the Longshore Act since they could no longer seek higher payment under the Virginia Act (Virginia adopted a fee schedule effective January 1, 2019, but the amounts paid to medical providers is still higher than what is paid under the Longshore Act). Many other medical practices have followed the lead of the orthopedic practice. In fact, it is almost impossible to find a neurologist in the Hampton Roads area who is willing to take a Longshore Workers Compensation patient. This leaves workers injured on the waterfront with less options for medical care and potentially accepting inferior medical care.

Clearly, concurrent jurisdiction never provided an injured worker with a double recovery. Instead it is clear that concurrent jurisdiction provided the injured worker with better options from medical care, the ability for distraught families to bury their loved ones without concern for the cost, and allow injured workers to be compensated for permanent loss of body parts.