

FREE COLLEGE FOR STEELWORKERS!



Bachelor's Degree Programs In:

- Education**
- Criminal Justice**
- Business Administration**

See Column and Flyer within for details.



Associate's Degree Programs In:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| -Accounting | -Teacher Education |
| -Arts | -Social Work |
| -Criminal Justice | -Advertising |
| -Healthcare | -Data Analytics |
| Administration | -CyberSecurity |
| -Paralegal | -Finance |
| -Professional Office | |
| Management | -And Many More! |



Keep Up Your Guard!

Maintain 6 feet of Distance between Yourself and Others.

Wear Your Cloth Face Covering while in Public.

**YOU MUST WEAR YOUR FACEMASK
WHILE IN THE UNION HALL!**



Executive Board
President-Charles Spivey
Vice President-Linwood Parrish
Recording Secretary-Ashley Seabrook
Financial Secretary-Verna Chamberliss
Treasurer -Carolyn Ezell
Guide-Phyllis Sessoms
Guard-Chris Puckett
Guard -Gloria Patterson
Trustee-Raymond Lewis
Trustee -Victor Boone
Trustee-Alycia Allen
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

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

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
 Huntington Ingalls Industries by Local 8888 USW.



From the President's Desk

Charles Spivey

Greetings Union Brothers and Sisters:

I'm praying we are all staying safe during this pandemic and avoiding excessive heat exposure. We have had many days of heat in excess of 90 degrees. Some days exceeded 100 degrees. As we continue to have this type of weather, we encourage you to take all precautions to stay safe.

While we are still in the middle of this pandemic, there are many questions that people just don't have answers for concerning COVID-19. I must confess, I'm one of those. Some questions I have no answers for. Before I give anyone bad information, I will not give any at all. If I can find the answer, I will relay it to those who have inquired.

After many calls about your displeasure with the two shifts, and me constantly asking the Company's President, Jennifer Boykin, how long will this last or if it was permanent; I finally was able to have the Company hear and address your complaints about not wanting to continue with the two shifts. Only because you asked, I spoke to Labor Relations about returning to normal as close as possible. They will try the new schedule starting no later than August 17, 2020.

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, August 28, 2020 "The Voyager" email address is: voyager@uswa.hrcoxmail.com

Continued on Page 3

The HERO's Act that Congress approved two months ago is still being debated in the Senate. In my conversation with the Virginia US Senator Mark Warner on August 3, 2020, he stated that regarding Hazardous Pay for essential employees, there was going to be some compromising to get some type of pay in the new Stimulus Bills that are on the floor. We will just keep praying and hoping for some type of compensation for the workers who make great sacrifices to build ships that protect our Country.

Our people are returning to the gates wearing our masks to engage with you while still practicing social distancing, to hear your concerns and answer as many questions as we possibly can. Hopefully, we will soon be able to return to a normal lifestyle and work environment.

Our Hall is open for business. My number is 757-247-5291 ext. 111. Please call with your concerns. Our monthly membership meetings remain cancelled until further notice.

Solidarity Forever,
USW Local 8888

Charles Spivey
President Local 8888



**Union
College
Benefit**



There is a program in place for all dues paying members of the United SteelWorkers (USW) and the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR), as well as their families, to receive a college education and Associates Degree free of charge. This is thanks to a partnership with Eastern Gateway Community College piloted by David McCall and our Union brothers and sisters in district one.

**Classes Start August 17th
October 12th**

Go to: freecollege.usw.org
Or call: (888)590-9009

Enrolling Now!

There is a new partnership between the United SteelWorkers and Central State University of Ohio to continue your education with a greatly discounted Bachelor's Degree program. For more information-

Go to: www.unionlowcostdegrees.org
Or call: (888)897-9671

**Classes Start August 17th
October 5th**

Get Started Today!



MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

+General Election:
November 3, 2020

+Deadline to Register:
October 13, 2020
elections.virginia.gov/register

+In-Person Absentee Voting:
**September 20 -
October 31, 2020**

+Deadline to Request Mail Ballot:
October 23, 2020
elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/absentee-voting

DO NOT LET YOUR VOICE BE SILENCED!

There is an election every year in Virginia. When you choose not to vote, you choose to let someone else make the decisions and speak for you. Only 72% of Virginia voters made their own decision in 2016 and less than half made a choice last year.

Do not let the inconvenience or distrust of the system silence you. It will only get better if everyone takes part. If you are not voting, they are not listening.

Do not let fear of the virus silence you. Use the websites above to vote absentee. Your voice and your vote matters. Be Heard.



Special Benefits Committee

Verna M. Chamberliss, Chair, X42

Even during the coronavirus pandemic, this has been another successful year for Delta Dental and Aflac open enrollment for the United SteelWorkers Local 8888. Open enrollment is now over until June – July 2021. We are only accepting applications for returning back to work Union members and new Union members. You must be a Union member to be eligible for these benefits, new Union members have 45 days after joining the Union to apply. A drawing will be held of Delta Dental and Aflac policies at our October Executive Board meeting. The winners will be notified by the Special Benefits Committee. The Special Benefits Committee would like to thank everyone for their patience and participation. A special thanks goes out to Delta Dental and Aflac for donating prizes for the raffles. If you have any questions about the plan you have signed up for, please call the Union Hall on Thursdays at (757) 247 – 5291 ext. 118, between the hours of 8:00am – 4:30pm.

We still have Union masks at the Union Hall for those that have not had a chance to pick them up. You can pick them up at the Union Hall on Thursdays between the hours of 8:00am – 4:30pm. Please stay safe and wear your mask.

Sincerely,
Special Benefits Committee,
Verna Chamberliss, Chair





Political Action Committee

**Gene E. Magruder,
X33, Chair**

What trying times we live in as employees of the shipyard these days. I will touch on 2 things in the article, Hazardous pay and our endorsement of Joe Biden for president. It is hoped that one can realize why voting is so important, especially this year on November 3rd.

I am sure many of you have heard that the Democrats, who control the House of Representatives in Congress, passed a bill called the Heroes Act. In this bill is hazardous pay for the shipyard employees who do not work from home. The legislation is currently on the desk of the leader of the Senate, Mitch McConnell, the republican leader of the Senate who had flatly said his members will not vote on it, nor has the president given any indication he will sign the legislation. This is what the legislation says would be the hazardous pay. Each employee would be paid a premium hourly pay of \$13.00/ hr, dated back to January 27th, 2020 until 60 days after the last day of the Covid-19 public health emergency. A company would be liable only up to a maximum of \$10,000 per employee. Then they have to pay that employee no more. The company would receive a grant from the federal government to pay for this program. I would assume going back that far that many employees have already reached the \$10,000 limit and it would be like a bonus. This is not that high actually, because if you were to stretch it over a year it would amount to around 27.00/ day. So, while it might look to some like we are receiving too much, if you really break it down it would appear easily workable for any corporation since they are being helped by the federal government in the process. Now by the time this article reaches the worker, the fate of any hazardous pay would have been determined. Either the Republicans in the Senate will pass their version, cutting us out or lowering it. I hope they see the benefit of rewarding employees who have no options on coming to work because of a designation by the federal government of being essential. One thing for sure, we will definitely know who to blame if it doesn't in some form pass from the Senate, or the president refuses to sign it. Elections matter.

Now the second part of the article, about the upcoming election and why we endorsed former Vice President Joe Biden over the current occupant, Donald Trump.

First I might as well shoot down the theory that the current president is good for shipbuilding. I hear it every time regarding republicans and I am able to document it as not being true every time. Take the shipyard hiring for instance which started way back around 2012 or so. That was under President Obama, in fact we were at our low point of around 7000 blue collar employees during the last term of George W. Bush. We were around 11,000 when Obama left office. The current carriers we are building were signed in 2015, along with many of the current submarines. All of these were under President Obama.

The point is that the occupant of the White House has little to do with the actual defense budget. The Congress alone has the ability to spend money, and both Democrats and Republicans together hardly ever disagree on defense spending. So that is not a reason to vote one way or another. However, such items as safety and health of you as a worker, social security, workers seat at the table and the ability through benefits and wages should have a very important influence on how you vote.

One should remember one of the first things the current president did when he took office was to take shipbuilders **out of the regulation** that would cover us for the dangers of the type of blasting we did at the shipyard. The president nominated a Supreme Court justice, who in a favorable ruling for the president, (because of the anti worker Supreme Court), said asbestos victims cant file class action law suits with other victims for compensation. This meant our fellow employees basically had no chance because of the expenses involved. The president has loaded the NLRB who control enforcement of the laws pertaining to workers, with pro corporation individuals, and their rulings have been disastrous for workers and unions. The last thing is that Joe Biden grew up in an industrial town. He grew up knowing workers and their issues, and thus over his 36 year career in the Congress voted in workers favor 86 percent of the time. While Trumps career has been consistently anti-labor, from his days of ripping off contractors, daring them to take him to and forcing them to accept way less than the signed contract. He has attacked workers rights since becoming president and has unequivocally said that American workers need to take a pay cut to compete. Besides returning sanity to the White House and hopefully our country, we also must vote to return sanity to the fact that we the workers should have a say in our future. The choice is to clear on Nov. 3rd and the union has made the only logical sane choice. Joe Biden should be our next president.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

A.C. Boone, Chairman

Have you been injured on the Job?

---**Report** any injury to your
Supervisor.

---**Obtain a Clinic Pass** from your
Supervisor in order to **report the injury** and
seek medical treatment.

---**Choose Your Own Doctor** to
treat you, as you are allowed to under federal
law.

---**File a Claim at the Union
Hall**, bring all paperwork concerning your in-
jury.

My name is A.C. Boone, I am the chair-
man of Local 8888's Workers Compensation
Committee, along with Ms. Donna Little and Ms.
Venessa Minggia. Our primary function is filing
injury claims for our members.

We would like our members to know that
they have one year from the date the injury oc-
curred to get their claim on file.

The office number is (757) 247 – 5291
extension 127. My number is (757) 696 – 3326.
You can reach us on Thursdays from 8:00 AM to
4:30 PM.



Herb Porter, X11, Chair

Greetings SteelWorkers,

It's been a while since we've had the
chance to do any outreach events due to
COVID, but we are back and ready to get
to work! Keep an eye out because we have
a lot of events coming up that are COVID-
conscious, starting with a car wash here at
the hall Saturday August 15th from 9am-
4pm. Also in August on the 24th we will
be at various gates at the close of 1st shift
handing out water and freeze pops. This is
just a start, we have more to come!

If you are interested in joining the
Next Gen or volunteering with us, you can
contact me at (757) 292-6179 or email:
ashleys8888@outlook.com.

Herb Porter,
Chairman

Upcoming Events:

Drive Thru Car Wash
Aug. 15 at the Union Hall

Judeo-Christian Outreach Center:
Bag Lunch Distribution.
Labor Day Sept. 7

Drive-In Movie Night
Behind the Union Hall
Sept. 19 tentative see
Sept. Voyager for
details.

American Red Cross
Blood Drive
October

Watch for More Events
Going Forward!





In Partnership with AFSCME

FREE COLLEGE BENEFIT

**Union members and their families
can earn an Associate Degree
with NO out-of-pocket cost.**



FREE COLLEGE BENEFIT FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

The Union Plus Free College Benefit offers working families an accessible, debt-free and convenient higher education opportunity. You, your spouse, children, financial dependents and grandchildren, can all take advantage of this exciting opportunity.



ZERO OUT-OF-POCKET COST

Members and their families can earn an Associate Degree online, with no out-of-pocket costs. A last-dollar scholarship covers the difference between any Federal grants and your tuition, fees and e-books at EGCC.



EASTERN GATEWAY CREDITS ARE TRANSFERABLE

Eastern Gateway Community College is a public, non-profit school in the University System of Ohio and is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Credits you earn can transfer to other schools, potentially saving you thousands of dollars.



1-888-590-9009
unionplusfreecollege.org

Free College is possible thanks to the early support and enthusiasm of AFSCME, who entered into a collaboration with Eastern Gateway Community College in 2016.

HIGHER EDUCATION IN JUST 4 STEPS



APPLY TO EASTERN GATEWAY

Go to unionplusfreecollege.org, select the "Get Started" button and complete the request information form with your contact and union information (for membership verification).



COMPLETE THE FREE FAFSA

Complete the form online: FAFSA.ed.gov
Eastern Gateway Community College school code: **007275** The FAFSA application is a requirement. If it's determined that you are not eligible for federal or state financial aid, a "last-dollar" scholarship will be applied to your remaining balance for tuition, fees and e-books.

Your FAFSA may be chosen for additional verification by the Dept. of Education. Compliance is required to receive the scholarship. Your enrollment advisor can help you with the process.



SUBMIT YOUR TRANSCRIPTS

Submit your high school transcript or GED test score as proof of high school completion. Official transcripts must be sent directly from the school to:

Email: transcript@egcc.edu (Subject: Union Plus)

Mail: EGCC Admissions
Attn: Union Plus
110 John Scott Highway
Steubenville, OH 43952

Fax: 740-266-9928 (Attn: UnionPlus)

If you have completed any college coursework, have the transcript sent to EGCC. Applicable college credits will be transferred to the new program.



ENROLL IN CLASSES

Work with an enrollment advisor to enroll in classes.

1-888-590-9009
unionplusfreecollege.org



The Higher Education Benefit covers the cost of tuition, fees and books after any PELL or other federal grant, or employer reimbursement is applied. The remaining amount will be cleared with the Free College scholarship. As long as your financial aid file is complete, there is no cost to the student and students are never asked to take out any loans.



Announcements

IN-MEMORIAM:

Sam Arthur "Boot" Howard
March 12, 1936-July 18, 2020
Newport News Shipbuilding, 23 years
United SteelWorkers, S.O.A.R



Our condolences go out to Raymond Lewis and his family, on the passing of his wife.



BIRTHDAYS

Sade Wadsworth - (X-36)
Lekesha Moton - (O-53)
Takesha Tatum - (X-33)
Tashaun Leigh - (X-33)
Ja-Khi Thomas - (Butch's Grandson)

The United SteelWorkers Local 8888 Union Hall at 4306 Huntington Avenue, Newport News, has resumed normal operations. We will be open to all workers from 8:00 am through 4:30 pm every Monday through Friday. We ask that you continue to respect Social Distancing and wear your mask while in the Hall.

Resources For SteelWorkers

USW International
COVID-19
Resources Page

www.usw.org/members/coronavirus-resources

COVID-19 Phone Line
Press "2" For Medical Clearance/ Badge Re-Activation

1-844-243-8749

TELADOC
24/7, 365 Doctor Consultation
\$10 Fee Waived for General Medicine and Behavior Consultations

teladoc.com

1-800-835-2362

Sickness and Accident
Leave of Absence

688-3800

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

688-8006

Kashable
Payroll Deduction Loans
From \$250 - \$20,000

www.kashable.com
646-663-4353
support@kashable.com

YOU MUST WEAR YOUR FACEMASK IN THE UNION HALL!



**Saturday, Aug 15, 2020
Monthly Membership Meeting
-CANCELED-**

**Deadline for
"Voyager" will be Aug 28, 2020**



**Meeting at the Union Hall
Aug 15, -CANCELED-**



**Labor Day:
Monday, September 7**

****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?



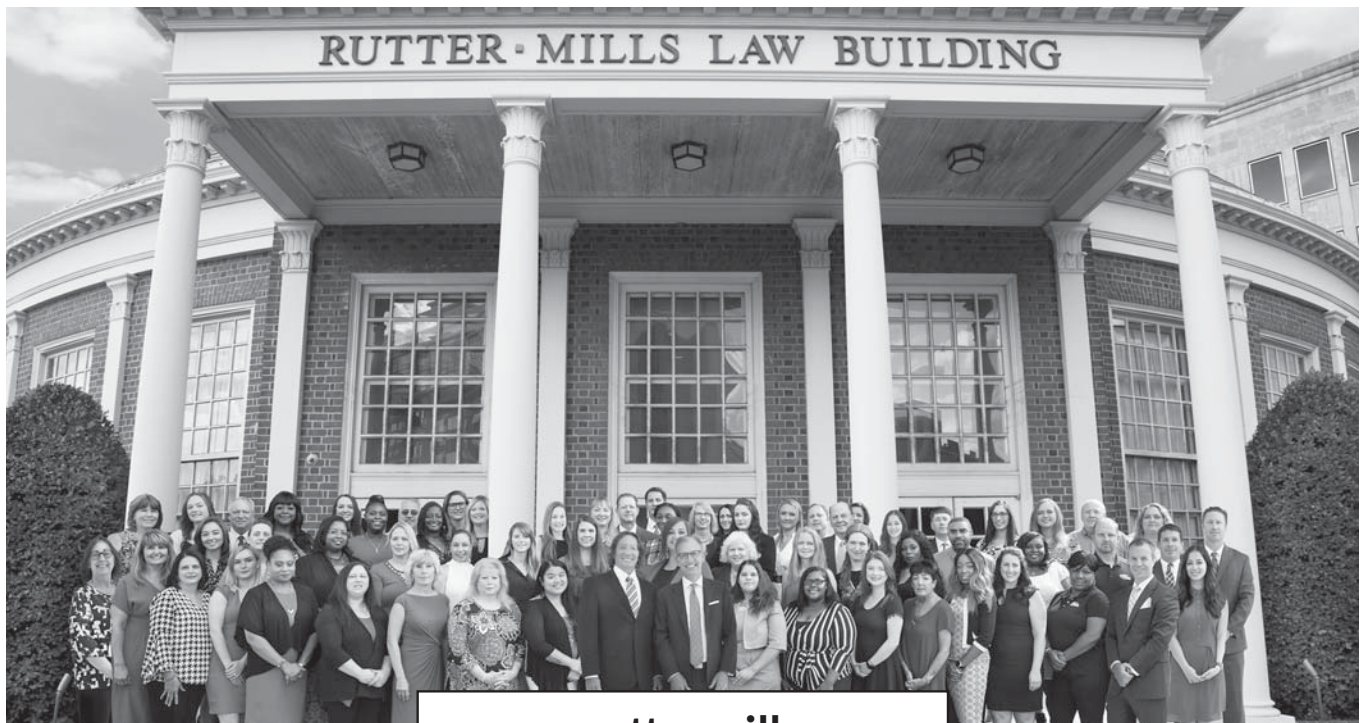
CALL OR TEXT US

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

4702 Washington Ave, Newport News, VA 23607



Meet the Newport News Staff



THE LAW FIRM OF
Charlene A. Morring, P.C.

Injured at work? Laid off on restrictions?

Let Attorney Morring and her staff Christina Garcia (pictured left) and Taliah Morring (pictured right) fight for you!

Call to book your appointment now!

2600 Washington Ave Ste 1008

Newport News, VA 23607

Phone No: (757) 223-1107

Licensed in Virginia and North Carolina

www.morringlaw.com

Montagna Klein Camden, LLP

Counselors at law



Charles Montagna

John Klein

Gregory Camden

TIMELINESS ON FILING A CLAIM

In recent months we have met with a number of Steelworkers who were voluntarily paid lost wage benefits (compensation) when their injury occurred, so they did not file claims with the U.S. Department of Labor. Years later, when their injuries flared up, the shipyard refused to pay lost wage benefits (compensation) because the claim was not filed in a timely manner.

Please do not let the employer lull you into complacency. You must file your claim with the U.S. Department of Labor. Notifying your employer is not enough. The employer does not and cannot file the claim for you.

For a **traumatic injury**, the claim must be filed within one (1) year of the injury, or one year from the last date compensation is paid, whichever occurs later. For a **repetitive injury**, the claim must be filed within one (1) year of the date the injured worker knows, or should have known, that the injury was due to their working conditions. For an **occupational injury or illness**, the claim must be filed within two (2) years from the date the injured worker first became aware of the relationship between the occupational disease, the disability and the working conditions of employment.

There are numerous exceptions to the above time periods. If an injured worker has questions as to whether they can file a timely claim, or need assistance pursuing these benefits, please contact us at **757-622-8100**.

**425 Monticello Avenue
Norfolk, Virginia 23510
757-622-8100**

www.montagnalaw.com

**4302 Huntington Avenue
Newport News, Virginia 23607
757-380-8100**

Family Law

Traffic Court

Workers' Compensation Claims

DUI/DWI

Personal Injury

Social Security