

USW@Work

A Regular Publication of the United Steelworkers

Volume 18/1

A Powerful Voice for Workers



2022 MIDTERM ELECTIONS

SOAR Activists Assist with USW Voter Outreach



From top left: Dave Janiszewski, Dave Harvey, Albert Polk and Denny Mitchell.

From bottom left: Karin Boland, Sandy Jones, JoAnn Loncar and Denise Edwards.



BILL PIENTA
SOAR President

New Year New Beginnings

I want to begin by wishing everyone a Happy New Year. I also want to welcome newly-elected district representatives Ronnie Wardrup (D1), Ben Medernach (D3), Ronnie Watson (D8) and Ruben Garza (D13) to the SOAR Executive Board.

In addition, I would like to give a special thank you to former board members Jeff Delong (D1), Dennis Carrigan (D3), Daniel Stevens (D8), and Andres Rosas (D13), who have stepped down from the board, for all they have done to help grow SOAR.

I look forward to hearing from the new executive board members about new ideas and strategies each district has for growing SOAR and getting our members involved in their respective districts.

I feel incredibly honored that the delegates to the 2022 SOAR Conference have again entrusted me to represent our SOAR members. I am extending a special thank you for their confidence in me to lead

this organization. Your attendance, participation and debate/discussion on the future direction of our program and organization are appreciated beyond measure, as this program only exists because of your activism.

Additionally, I want to acknowledge the International Executive Board of the USW, which recently voted to approve the resolutions submitted by chapters. These resolutions provide more resources to the chapters and allow for greater participation by providing more opportunities for activists from SOAR chapters to attend the SOAR Conference.

I would also like to make a special mention to the politicians that supported the passing of the Butch Lewis pension protection legislation, which provided funding for previously underfunded multi-employer pension plans. Over 1 million retirees, many of them Steelworkers, could celebrate the New Year knowing their benefits would not be reduced or terminated.

Finally, but first in my heart, are the members of SOAR, who I thank for all that you do to help improve the lives of retirees and workers by being involved, and for your willingness to participate in all types of actions whenever called upon by SOAR or the USW.

Finally, but first in my heart, are the members of SOAR, who I thank for all that you do to help improve the lives of retirees and workers by being involved, and for your willingness to participate in all types of actions whenever called upon by SOAR or the USW.



SOAR in ACTION
USW@Work

Published as an edition to *USW@Work* for the United Steelworkers
60 Blvd. of the Allies
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Winner of ICLA's journalistic competition awards for General Excellence in 1986, 1990 and 1993

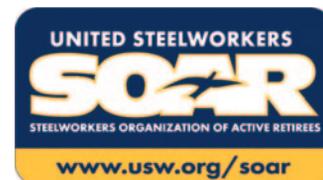
Julie Stein, Editor
Lori Bookwood, Copy Editor
Jay McMurrin, Copy Editor
Eric Russell, Copy Editor

Address editorial material to:
Editor, *USW@Work*, *SOAR in Action*
United Steelworkers
60 Blvd. of the Allies
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

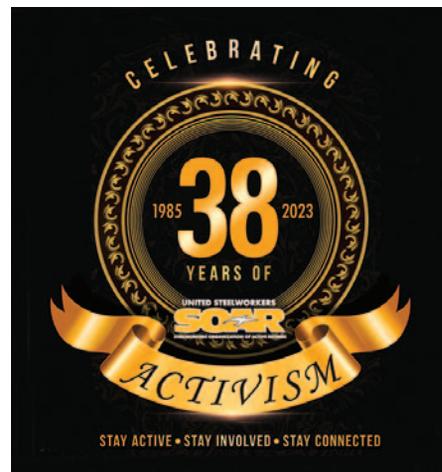
Send address changes only to:
USW Membership Department
60 Blvd. of the Allies
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
Or E-mail: MEMBERSHIP@USW.ORG

When submitting an address change, please include address label from last issue.

USW@Work (ISSN 0883-3141) is published four times a year by the United Steelworkers AFL-CIO-CLC, 60 Blvd. of the Allies, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. Subscriptions to non-members: \$12 for one year; \$20 for two years. Periodicals postage paid at Pittsburgh, PA and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: **USW@Work**, USW Membership Dept., 60 Blvd. of the Allies, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.



facebook.com/groups/uswsoar



Steelworkers' Continued Activism Helps Secure Pro-Worker Majority in U.S. Senate



JULIE STEIN
SOAR Director

Happy New Year! I hope you had a safe and fulfilling holiday season.

As we prepare to fight the good fight to protect retirees' and workers' rights in 2023, I want you to keep one thing in mind: Good things don't usually just happen. We have to be involved and push for the changes we want to see made.

That's why I'm so incredibly proud that Steelworkers, including SOAR members and retirees, worked so hard last year to ensure pro-retiree, pro-worker lawmakers were elected in local, state and federal government.

We should all be celebrating that our work paid off because the outcome of the 2022 midterm elections turned out much better for retirees and workers than many had expected they would.

Very Slim Majorities in U.S. Senate, House after 2022 Midterm Elections

With the victory of Reverend Raphael Warnock in the closely-watched December 6 runoff election, a narrow 51-49 pro-worker majority has been secured in the U.S. Senate.

While we lost our worker-friendly majority in the House of Representatives, the outcome was much better than many projected it would be before Election Day. Once the new Congress was installed in early 2023, the margin stands currently at 213-222.

It should be noted that over the past century, only three presidents — FDR in 1934, John F. Kennedy in 1962 and George W. Bush in 2002 — finished a midterm cycle with fewer than 10 House losses and zero Senate losses. President Biden will be added to that historical statistic. He has had the most successful midterm cycle of any president in generations.

Gubernatorial elections were crucial, as predicted

Last year, voters in 36 states had before them the important task of electing their most powerful state-level leader — their governor.

The impact of these elections cannot be overstated because nearly 80 percent of America's total population resides in these 36 states.

In 16 of those contests, we were fighting to defend a pro-worker, pro-retiree incumbent governor or ensure their seat was not lost to a corporate-backed opponent.

In 15 of those contests, the labor-backed candidate prevailed. Nevada was the only state where we were unsuccessful in protecting an incumbent governor who was our ally, Steve Sisolak.

Further, we held on to key seats in Pennsylvania (Josh Shapiro), Michigan (Gretchen Whitmer) and Wisconsin (Tony Evers).

The remaining 20 states holding gubernatorial elections in 2022 presented a different set of challenges for the labor movement. In these states, we either had to defeat an incumbent governor closely aligned with corporate backers or flip a seat previously held by an anti-worker governor who was not running for reelection because of term limits or other reasons.

On Election Day, we were successful in three such situations, with labor-backed candidates prevailing in Arizona (Katie Hobbs), Maryland (Wes Moore) and Massachusetts (Maura Healey).

When this new class of governors took office in January, voters in 24 states now have a pro-worker governor.

Notable shifts in state legislatures

Labor's efforts helped to flip the balance of power in four states, securing pro-worker majorities in Michigan's state House and state Senate for the first time in nearly 40 years, Minnesota's state House, and Pennsylvania's state House.

Notably, Pennsylvania and Virginia, which will hold state legislative elections in 2023, will be the only states with split legislatures this year, which means the two state legislative chambers will be controlled by opposite political parties. Other than in 2020 when only Minnesota was split, the last time it was this low was in 1914.

More Americans will have labor-friendly state-level governance in 2023

The outcome of 2022's gubernatorial and state legislative elections will mean that pro-retiree, pro-worker lawmakers are in better shape in state government than at any point since 2010.

In fact, because of how population is distributed across the states, more than 140 million Americans — about 42 percent — reside in states that will be represented by pro-labor trifectas, compared to just 131 million Americans, or 39 percent, who live in states that more business-friendly lawmakers will represent.

*Join with us, as we continue the fight to protect and enhance
the quality of life of our retirees and working families.
We are stronger together!*

MARY W JACKSON NE

"I plan on being an engineer at NASA... I have no choice but to be the first."

"Hidden Figures" 2016

Local 8888 President Charles Spivey sitting with family members of Mary Jackson outside of the new neighborhood center in Hampton, Va., named in her honor.



Local 8888 Campaign Honors 'Hidden Figures' Heroine

By Dwight Kirk

Sometimes when history rolls up on you on a sunny day, you just exhale and embrace the moment. That moment came for me on Sept. 17, 2022, at the dedication ceremonies for the new Mary W. Jackson Center in Hampton, Va.

Mary Jackson became a national icon following the 2016 hit movie, "Hidden Figures," which told the inspirational story of three Black women who played critical roles in sending the first American astronaut into space in 1962.

Ms. Jackson, who was portrayed by Janelle Monáe in the movie, was the first African American female engineer at nearby Langley Laboratory. She was a brilliant mathematician.

Mary Jackson was so much more than a trailblazer. She was a beloved community icon whose impact was felt on a personal level. She taught. She tutored. She mentored. She raised a family. She

was a Girl Scout troop leader for more than 30 years. She opened her home to students from Hampton Institute who needed housing. She even took a demotion—voluntarily—later in her career to take a position that would allow her to open the door for other women in the

math, science and engineering fields at NASA. Indeed, Mary Jackson answered the call of service over and over and over.

Ms. Jackson also was the mother-in-law of Local 8888 Trustee Raymond Lewis. But she was virtually a forgotten hero in her hometown of Hampton. Nothing showcased her trailblazing legacy or her enormous community service.

That gaping omission became the catalyst for a petition campaign launched in 2017 by USW Local 8888 to have the City of Hampton honor the late Ms. Jackson in some permanent, meaningful



A young admirer of Mary Jackson holds a poster distributed at the grand opening of the Mary W. Jackson Neighborhood Center in Hampton, Va.

IGHBORHOOD CENTER



Members of Mary Jackson's family join City of Hampton Mayor Donnie Tuck to cut the ribbon opening the new Mary W. Jackson Neighborhood Center.

way. Five years later, after much legislative churning and frustrating delays, a beautiful 12,000 square-foot neighborhood center bearing her name opened its doors in her old neighborhood.

It was a proud and historic achievement for the 10,000 Steelworkers who build nuclear submarines and aircraft carriers in the Newport News shipyard. They believed and persisted.

It was gratifying for me to have framed and guided the union's Mary Jackson campaign. I also had the pleasure of designing a Mary Jackson poster exclusively for the Steelworkers. I was honored to present the framed poster to Hampton Mayor Donnie Tuck at the grand opening of the Mary Winston Jackson Neighborhood Center, where it will be hung.

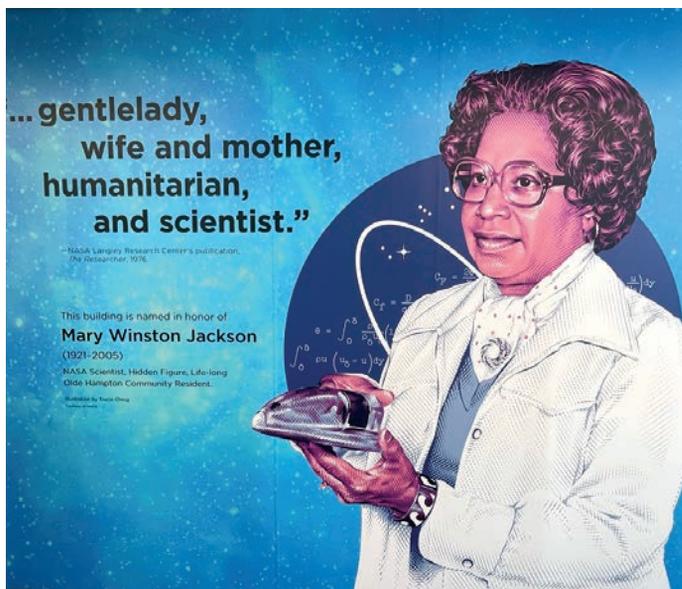
This campaign was an historic achievement for Local 8888 and the International Union. When Local 8888 President Charles Spivey presented the center with a \$10,000 donation for outreach and programming, the audience erupted into applause.

Now I can exhale, knowing a Black woman's name is on a public building in Hampton and her legacy is permanently secure to inspire future generations.

Dwight Kirk serves as the spokesperson for Local 8888 in Newport News, Va. His commentary originally appeared on unerasedbws.com, the website for Unerased—Black Women Speak. USW Local 8888 serves as home to SOAR Chapter 35-1.



Excited Steelworkers hold a framed poster of Mary Jackson created and donated by Local 8888 to hang in the new center named in her honor.



A wall mural educates visitors about Mary Jackson.



Local 8888 President Charles Spivey hands Hampton Mayor Donnie Tuck a \$100,000 check from the local to support the new Mary Jackson center.



SOAR donation to Elgin Street Mission

SOAR chapters doing what Steelworkers do best ~



SOAR donation to Maison McCulloch Hospice

giving back to their communities.



SOAR donation to Inner City Homes



SOAR donation to Pregnancy Care Centre

All photos from SOAR Chapter 6-2 in Sudbury, Ontario.

Local Light Display Delivers Food and Toys

For the past 20 years, Brett Barden, who now works in Communications for USW District 3, has put up Christmas lights at his home in Surrey, B.C. What started with a few lights is now a must-experience event. Brett requests those visiting the display to bring an item for the food bank or a child's toy. SOAR Chapter 3-14 was so impressed with both the display and the idea of food and toy donations that the chapter voted to make a donation in appreciation of Brett's efforts. Chapter Secretary-Treasurer, Fred Girling, was able to catch up with Brett at the B.C. Federation of Labour convention to make the cheque presentation. Thanks for your efforts, Brett.



Fred Girling

Brett Barden

SOAR Prepares for Canadian National Policy Conference

The Call for the next National SOAR conference has gone out to active SOAR chapters in Canada. If your chapter has not received it, please contact Monica Mark at mmark@usw.ca.

In January, SOAR chapters in Canada will be voting on members to attend the National SOAR Conference being held in Toronto at the Sheraton Centre Hotel on April 23 and 24, 2023. Each chapter is entitled to one delegate paid for from the National SOAR fund, but can send as many delegates as they can afford to pay from their own funds.

The delegates can expect interesting speakers on a variety of topics. Chapters are encouraged to submit resolutions on issues for debate and action. The deadline to receive resolutions is Feb. 27, 2023. We suggest that resolutions be no longer than 150 words. Once adopted by the conference delegates, the resolutions help shape the political agenda for SOAR going forward.

Delegates are invited to attend the first day of the USW Canadian National Policy Conference, to interact with active members and help build lasting relationships with local union leadership.

SOAR Supports Those in Need but Seeks Societal Change

By Lena Sutton

SOAR Chapter 10 President, Hamilton, Ont., Canada

On Dec. 6, 2022, members of SOAR Chapter 10 in Hamilton, Ont., held their Christmas luncheon. We collected unwrapped gifts, non-perishable food items, gently worn winter clothing and cash donations from our members for St. Matthew's House, which organizes a food bank for seniors as well other programs for the needy in our community.

Over six monthly SOAR Chapter 10 meetings in 2022, we collected money from a \$2 draw, raising \$500 for St. Matthew's House.

At the Hamilton Steelworkers Area Council Christmas meeting, along with SOAR, USW locals 1005, 5328, 1976, 4153, 16506, 7135, the area council, Universal Promotions, Stelco, ArcelorMittal Hamilton East and the Steelworkers Humanity Fund donated over \$40,000 to local community food banks as well as food items, unwrapped gifts and winter clothing.

According to 2022 data from Hamilton Food Share, Hamilton continues to have the second-highest per capita food bank access across Ontario, and the number of visits continues to increase.

Each month, 4,220 people who access food banks are at extreme risk of homelessness and 62 percent of clients are only able to pay rent each month due to the support received through emergency food banks.

On a typical day in Hamilton, 53 seniors or more will seek help from a food bank, an increase of 34 percent over the past two years. Many clients accessing food banks are also workers who previously donated to food banks. Children continue to represent 40 percent of food bank visits. Many families are skipping meals due to increased food costs, which are up by 11.4 percent.

In 2023, the annual grocery bill for a family of four is expected to be \$16,288. How can anyone in Ontario, earning minimum wage, or on disability support or welfare buy food and provide the other necessities of life? Minimum wage in Ontario is \$15.50/hr. The Ontario Disability Support Program provides just \$1,228 per month for basic needs and shelter. Ontario Works provides \$733. A senior under age 75 receives \$1,026.96. This is not enough to live in dignity!

Large grocery chains like Loblaws increased their profit by 40 percent in 2022. CEO Galen Weston earned more than \$4 million. The Weston family, which owns Loblaws, is the third-wealthiest family in Canada, worth USD \$8.7 billion. This is the same company that cancelled the pandemic pay for essential front-line workers. Loblaws received \$12 million from the Government of Canada to update their freezers during the pandemic.

Loblaws is blaming the high cost of groceries on supply shortages and higher costs from suppliers. The provincial government gave companies \$100 million during the COVID-19 pandemic, while limiting public worker pay increases to just one percent. The same government denied any increases at all to people on social assistance.

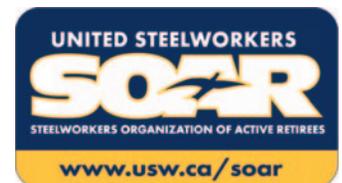
Where is the justice? This is why our society is seeing an increase in food bank usage.

The only political party taking action on price increases and rising rent costs is the New Democrats, both provincially and federally. This is a reason for retirees to support and vote for New Democrats in Canada and Democrats in the U.S.

Lena Sutton also serves as the SOAR Executive Board Member for USW District 6.



Pictured left to right: Madeleine Bond, St. Matthew's House; Lena Sutton, President, SOAR Chapter 10; Amanda Neale, support staff; Renee Wetselaar, Executive Director, St. Matthew's House; Brenda Smith, SOAR member; Bob Sutton, SOAR Secretary; Ed Smith, SOAR member.



SOAR in ACTION



Johnstown, PA—In November, the remaining members of SOAR Chapter 15-11 merged with Chapter 10-9. The newly “combined” group met for the first time on December 6 at Turner Hall, in Johnstown. Pictured are officers of the chapter, from left to right: James Blasko, Chapter 10-9 Trustee; Robert Sedei, former Chapter 15-11 President; David Gage, Chapter 10-9 President; and John “Skip” Kern, Chapter 10-9.



Pueblo, CO — SOAR Chapter 38-3 Vice President Joel Buchanan delivers items from their annual sock drive collected during the chapter’s annual holiday gathering to a Pueblo Cooperative Care and Share Center representative. The center will distribute the socks to Pueblo citizens who are in need during these challenging times. Thanks to all who helped and donated!



Pueblo, CO — On November 26, 2022, SOAR Chapter 38-3 participated with the Southern Colorado Labor Council’s “Union Town” float in the annual Pueblo “Parade of Lights.”



Epping, NH — On October 17, District 4 SOAR political activists Albert Polk and Denny Mitchell took time out from their political efforts in New Hampshire to attend a Teamsters Rally in support of Sysco drivers, members of Teamsters Local 653, who walked off the job at the beginning of October when negotiations for their collective bargaining agreement broke down over wages and benefits. The local has since ratified an agreement with Sysco. In solidarity!



Martins Ferry, OH — On December 7, members of SOAR Chapter 23-9 (Steelworker Retirees of Martins Ferry, Ohio Area) held their monthly meeting at the USW Local 1238 hall, to be followed by their annual holiday luncheon.



Allentown, PA — On December 19, members of SOAR Chapter 15-12 held their monthly meeting to be followed by their annual holiday luncheon. The chapter represents retirees from two former Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel plants located in Allentown and Monessen, Pa.



Gwinner, ND — On November 22, members of SOAR Chapter 11-PC1 showed up in number at USW Local 560’s Town Hall meeting, in Gwinner. “We were honored to be heard regarding Doosan-Bobcats’ proposed changes to retiree health insurance. We are proud to stand with our LU 560 Brothers and Sisters as they negotiate for a fair contract,” stated Jodi Hardebeck, SOAR Chapter 11-PC1 Recording Secretary. In solidarity!



2023

Taking the Conversation to Washington, D.C.

It's going to be a busy 2023 for Rapid Response, and we are looking forward to working closely with SOAR to get things done! With what is looking like a debt ceiling battle looming ahead, we plan to aim our focus at making sure there are not cuts to, but instead expansion of Social Security and Medicare.

Let's be clear. America's seniors cannot afford benefit cuts, including raising the eligibility ages for future Social Security and Medicare beneficiaries. Many older Americans are still struggling in the post-pandemic economy. Some retirees have had to return to work to make ends meet. They need every penny of their earned benefits.

But this issue is not just one that matters to retirees. Data suggests that younger adults will rely on Social Security even more for financial survival in retirement. Millennials are projected to receive about \$1 million for an average-income single adult and \$2 million for a couple over a lifetime. They have a lot to lose if future Social Security benefits are slashed.

A large majority of voters (83 percent according to Data for Progress) across party lines say they want



to see Social Security expanded, not slashed, with the wealthy contributing their fair share in payroll taxes. Meanwhile, 62 percent of voters say they want Congress to raise the debt ceiling so that the government can meet its existing financial obligations, with no strings attached.

We couldn't agree more. We are all in this fight, and we plan to let Congress know. One way we plan to do that is by taking the conversation straight to Washington, D.C.

We could not be more excited to announce we are returning there in June for the 2023 Rapid Response, Legislative and Policy Conference to take place in conjunction with the SOAR Executive Board Meeting.

You can find out all about it by going to www.usw.org/RRconference

We hope to see you there!



Former District Director Jim Bowen Dies at 87



Jim Bowen
1935-2022

Jim Bowen, former director of USWA District 23, passed away on September 27, 2022, at the age of 87.

Bowen served as director of District 23, which included West Virginia and parts of Southeastern Ohio, for 10 years. He was elected in 1985 and served until 1995, when the USWA restructured its U.S. districts from 18 down to nine.

International President George Becker then named Bowen a special assistant, a position he held until his retirement.

Bowen also served as president of the West Virginia AFL-CIO from 1997 to 2004, as a vice president of the Ohio AFL-CIO, and as a board member of Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corp.

Labor leaders who served alongside Bowen praised his dedication and commitment to helping working people.

“I struggle to put into words how important Jim Bowen has been to the labor movement here in West Virginia,” said current West Virginia AFL-CIO President Josh Sword. “He was a mentor to me and so many others who strive to help workers secure good paying, safe jobs and have a powerful voice in the workplace.”

Bowen’s successor as president of the West Virginia labor federation, Kenny Perdue, served as secretary-treasurer while Bowen was the AFL-CIO president. Perdue retired in 2016.

“Jim Bowen was a force of nature,” Perdue said. “He was known for his booming, deep voice that would not

only be heard loud and clear among the countless rallies and protests, but also in the halls of the Statehouse, where he tirelessly fought for laws to protect and respect working people.”

Bowen also served on a number of local government committees and was a member of the Democratic National Committee.

Perhaps Bowen’s crowning achievement as a Steelworkers leader was in 1992, when he helped negotiate an end to the historic dispute at Ravenswood Aluminum Corp., where members of USW Local 5668 were locked out for nearly two years.

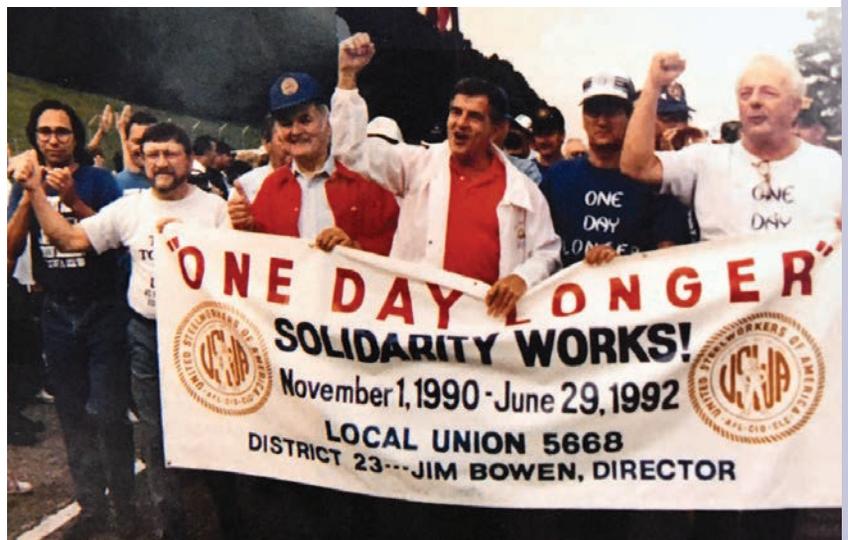
The fight at Ravenswood gained international attention and was a huge victory for the 1,700 locked-out workers and their community.

“Jim said there were five qualities that led to their victory: labor solidarity, community support, bravery, creativity and perseverance,” Sword said. “That sums up how Jim conducted himself throughout his career. He never gave up, and he inspires all of us to live up to his unwavering standards.”

West Virginia Education Association President Dale Lee called Bowen “the greatest labor leader I’ve known in my lifetime.”

“West Virginia and all the working people lost a great friend and advocate,” Lee said.

Bowen is survived by his wife and daughter as well as two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



May he rest as he served ~ in power and in peace.

Keeping a **Watchful Eye** on China

Since the Alliance for American Manufacturing was founded in 2007, we have been tireless advocates of manufacturing done right here in America that supports the dedicated American workforce.

We've also encouraged our followers to buy American-made products whenever possible to support our nation's industries and the people they employ.

We are always here to guide you when you are looking to purchase American-made products but we realize that unfortunately there are times when domestic options are just not available.

But we are steadfast in our belief that when federal tax dollars are utilized for major construction and infrastructure projects that these American dollars should be used as revenue for United States-based companies and American workers. Thankfully, legislation has been implemented that guarantees how our federal tax dollars are spent.



For the daily consumer, our website: www.americanmanufacturing.org has not only a Made in America Directory but also nine years of Holiday Gift Guide selections that highlight consumer products made right here in America.

But for multi-million and billion dollar infrastructure projects, the past 20 years has seen jurisdictions looking to China and other foreign coun-



tries for bargain-basement priced materials that often produce shoddy construction all at the cost of trying to save a buck. The results of buying on the cheap have often provided less than stellar results.

You can just look back at the disaster of the rebuilding of the San Francisco-Oakland-Bay Bridge that was finally completed in 2013 after 11 years of work. California decided to source the steel for the bridge from a novice China company and the bridge ultimately came in way over budget at \$6.5 billion and completion was delayed for years. To this day, the shoddy construction of the Chinese steel continues to plague the span connecting the two Northern California Bay cities.

And the malfeasance continues today in the manufacturing of mass transit rail cars in Boston, Philadelphia, and Chicago. The most recent example is the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's (MBTA) hiring of CRRC, a Chinese state-owned enterprise, to supply its historic T transit system with new rail cars.

CRRC even built a factory in Springfield, Mass. to basically give the impression the cars were being made in America. But evidence

suggests that most of the manufacturing takes place in China with just the finishing touches being applied in the Bay state.

This strategy has been another disaster as Chinese government backed CRRC has not timely met contractual demands and has produced a series of faulty train cars.

The Alliance for American Manufacturing has been keeping a close watch on China's questionable practices from its long history of dumping its cheap, inferior steel into the U.S. to its use of slave labor in apparel manufacturing in the cotton-rich province of Xinjiang.

And the newly elected 118th U.S. Congress has agreed to keep an even closer eye on the maneuvers of the Chinese Communist Party.

On January 10, Congress addressed the issue of China undercutting American financial interests when the U.S. House of Representatives established the new Select Committee on Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party. The new committee, which will be chaired by Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-Wis.), will focus on restoring supply chains and ending critical

continued on page 12



By Jay McMurren, SOAR Legislative Director

President Biden’s administration scored a major legislative win last month with the passage of the Omnibus Budget Act of the fiscal year 2023.

The \$1.7 trillion package provides funding for the government through October 1 of this year and avoids a threatened government shutdown by members of the right-wing Freedom Caucus. The Act passed with bipartisan support with a 68 to 29 vote in the Senate and a 225 to 201 margin in the House.



Jay McMurren

While the spending package failed to address some concerns of progressives, such as enhancing the Child Tax Credit, it does provide many benefits for working-class families.

Perhaps the most important is long sought-after protections for pregnant workers. It requires employers to provide additional bathroom breaks and relief from heavy lifting during pregnancy. The bill also prevents women from being forced to take a leave of absence or losing their jobs due to a pregnancy. Finally, employers must also provide

women time and accommodations to pump breast milk. Advocates of this legislation have struggled for years to get the bill passed.

Another benefit for workers and seniors is language that addresses retirement savings plans. The law makes it easier for workers to save for retirement and less expensive when they withdraw funds from their accounts. Additionally, it will allow penalty-free withdrawals for some emergency expenses, provides employer-match contributions for a worker’s student loan payments and increases the amount older workers can save in their employer-based retirement plans.

Since the Act was passed, Republicans have taken control of the House of Representatives and have stated a willingness to use future budget and debt ceiling legislation to advance a right-wing agenda. However, if you think back to the Trump presidency, you would be hard-pressed to remember an instance when Republicans complained about the size of the budget or the national deficit. Now, with a Democrat in the White House and Republican control of a legislative branch, government spending is sure to be a major concern for the next two years.

Keeping a Watchful Eye on China

continued from page 11

economic dependencies on China according to guidance provided by House Majority Leader Steve Scalise (R-La.).

Committee members also will examine ways to strengthen the military, end the theft of intellectual property and American personal data and contrast “the Chinese Communist Party’s techno-totalitarian state with the values of the Free World.”

Alliance for American Manufacturing President Scott Paul said:

“We hope the select committee’s work will provide citizens and policymakers with new insights into our challenging relationship with China.

The breadth and depths of the issues—including everything from economic competition and cyber espionage to China’s influence over our allies and global markets to military aggression and human rights violations—deserve constant focus and the development of new policy tools to address them.

“To be fully credible, the committee must appoint members from the Industrial Heartland whose communities have been devastated over the past two decades by the China economic shock. And members would be wise to remember that voters are united in their need to confront China. Making this a bipartisan effort is

necessary for our economic and national security.

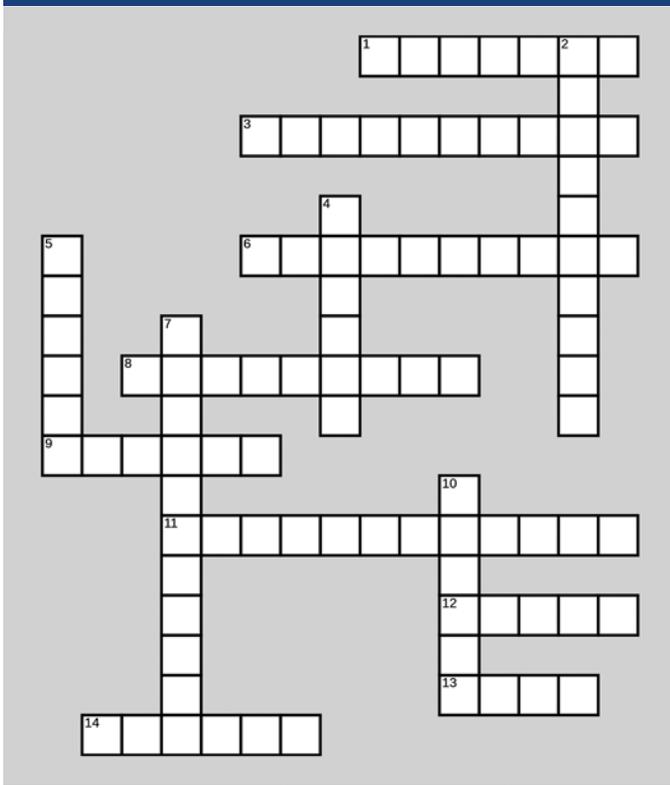
“As a partnership between American businesses and factory workers, the Alliance for American Manufacturing looks forward to working with the committee, sharing our research, expertise and policy ideas.”

With all of the constant rancor between Democrats and Republicans in Congress, it is refreshing that our elected leaders have come together to echo the sentiments of the American public when it comes to keeping a watchful eye on communist China.

Jeff Bonior is a staff writer at the Alliance for American Manufacturing

SOAR Fun Page

SOAR Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Alaska became the 49th state in this month
- 3 Involvement of common citizens
- 6 Informal term for extended debate
- 8 A formal complaint
- 9 Temporary stoppage of work
- 11 Formal approval of agreement
- 12 Bring together
- 13 Best activist in USW
- 14 Current USW President

DOWN

- 2 The "Glory" days
- 4 Holiday in January
- 5 You may need tissues for your...
- 7 Method of settling a labor dispute
- 10 Things you believe are important

MLK Wordsearch

L S E L M A Q X T B Y U Q I F C U P R R
 A D M B I R M I N G H A M F Y A S F E U
 B S K S E G R E G A T E D U D N X R K D
 O V T U W B C I V I L R I G H T S E A L
 R W N H N O V L Y G D H N A C T X E E Y
 F H C R G I W X N Z E M M K D G M D V W
 A E O R C I O B P W S A J T P C E O E D
 I N M E Y G R N H Y E P K N K T M M I O
 R F M T M I J B S M G O H E Q A P Q L I
 N L U S A L V P S Y R V M M V G H X E K
 E E N I E N U I M U E E Q E B I I G B T
 X A I N R Y L L B P G R W V A N S V S C
 R D T I D A K A R R A T D O H O O I G L
 W E Y M T W S O V Y T Y D M V U V O V C
 G R M I F O T G U C I Q W T E I H M H M
 B W P J Q E G F J A O S H V T R C G X W
 G A Y N S E X F K G N M R C Y N A A C P
 C Y W T O O Y L C E L J A N X U I V U W
 A H S Y K Y U R N L Q T F V X Y Q M N N
 A D O A A T A C H I E V E F B C K U J U

WORD LIST

- | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|----------|------------|
| ACHIEVE | DESEGREGATION | MEMPHIS | RIGHTS |
| ACTIVIST | DREAM | MINISTER | SEGREGATED |
| BELIEVE | FAIR | MLK | SELMA |
| BIRMINGHAM | FREEDOM | MOVEMENT | UNIONS |
| CAPITALISM | LABOR | NAACP | |
| CIVIL RIGHTS | LEADER | POVERTY | |
| COMMUNITY | LEGACY | PROTEST | |

Solutions on page 14



"I always wanted to retire somewhere in the tropics...
Too bad my job got there first."





House Members Positioned to Slash Social Security and Medicare

By Robert Roach, Jr.

Conservative rebels in the House have received a commitment from new House Speaker Kevin McCarthy to oppose a “clean” debt limit increase in 2023.

Their goal is to tie any vote to increase the nation’s debt ceiling, which covers past expenditures, to deep cuts in domestic spending that could include massive reductions to the hard earned Social Security and Medicare benefits that millions of Americans rely on each day.

If the maneuver succeeds, it will set up a showdown with Senate Democrats and President Biden and put the country at risk of default.

Multiple members of Congress, especially members of the extremist House Freedom Caucus, have declared that the debt ceiling vote should be used to force cuts to Social Security and Medicare, which President Biden has vowed to oppose. The Treasury Department has not said when exactly the debt limit will expire, but economists estimate it will need to be raised sometime after July.

Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX) said that “there certainly is that danger” that 2023 could turn into a repeat of 2011, when the deadlock over raising the debt limit dragged on for months and took the nation so close to default that Standard and Poor’s downgraded America’s credit rating.

Several Republicans have stated that they will go as far as forcing the country into default, setting off a global economic crisis, unless Democrats and President Biden accept changes to Social Security and Medicare.

We will take whatever means necessary to ensure that this does not happen.



Robert Roach, Jr. is president of the Alliance for Retired Americans. He was previously the General Secretary-Treasurer of the IAMAW.

For more information, visit www.retiredamericans.org.

Many Inflation Reduction Act Provisions Took Effect in January

On August 16, 2022, President Biden signed the *Inflation Reduction Act* into law, setting into motion multiple provisions that will bring down skyrocketing prescription drug prices for millions of Americans.

Many of those provisions began this past January, including:

- ▶ Insulin co-pays are capped at \$35 per month for Medicare beneficiaries;
- ▶ All recommended adult vaccines are free for Medicare beneficiaries;
- ▶ Corporations that raise the price of drugs sold to Medicare faster than the rate of inflation must pay rebates back to Medicare;
- ▶ The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) must identify the 100 highest-priced drugs and select the first 10 for price negotiation

In addition, Medicare began to cover medically necessary dental procedures beginning in January. Also, over-the-counter hearing aids are available now, following an Executive Order signed by President Biden in October.

“It took many years of activism to get here, but drug prices have finally begun to come down,” said Richard Fiesta, Executive Director of the Alliance for Retired Americans. “Alliance members should be proud of the role they played in making this a reality.”





USW Membership Department
60 Blvd. of the Allies
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

The Union Plus Mortgage Program **WORKS FOR ME**



“I was searching different avenues to see who had the best rates, but I wanted to go to sources that I could trust. Through the Union Plus Mortgage Program, I spoke to someone at Wells Fargo Home Mortgage and I felt very comfortable.” — union member



See more at
unionplus.org/usw



Wells Fargo Home Mortgage has a services agreement with Union Privilege in which Union Privilege receives a financial benefit for providing agreed-upon services. Wells Fargo Home Mortgage encourages you to shop around to ensure you receive the services and loan terms that fit your home financing needs.

Wells Fargo Home Mortgage is a division of Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. © 2022 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

NMLSR ID 399801



SOAR-MT-01-12-2023