



District 13

Ruben Garza
District Director

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July 8, 2014

Sisters and Brothers,

I hope everyone had a fun and safe 4th of July.

I wanted to write each Local in the District concerning our Rapid Response program and the need for every USW Local to have a vibrant RR program. Back in April I spoke with Kim Miller, (National Director of Rapid Response) and Andy Frye, (District 13 Rapid Response Coordinator), about our program and ways to improve it. As most of you know, we track Locals participation in Rapid Response and realize we have room for improvement. As we move our program forward we are also looking for people to serve as a volunteer regional Rapid Response Coordinator. These people should be motivated in Rapid Response and be able to communicate that passion to other members in their geographical location. Our long term goal is to have several of these volunteers throughout the District.

We are putting a big push into getting **EVERY** Local in the District trained in Rapid Response and we are committed to doing everything that we can to make this happen. I have enclosed with this letter a two page document that explains what Rapid Response is, please share with your members ASAP, asking for folks to serve on your Rapid Response team.

Contact Andy Frye at afrye@usw.org or on his cell at 918-232-8128 to set up a Rapid Response training at your Local. Andy makes himself available 7 days a week so that he can come to your Local to do the training on days and at times that best fit your needs. I have asked Andy to do as many of these trainings as possible before our International Convention in August, then continue afterwards until we get every Local in the District. Even if you have a very good program, Andy should come by and do a refresher course as things in the political world are always changing. If you have any questions at all, contact Andy as directed above.

Thanks for all that you do.

In Solidarity,

Ruben Garza
USW District 13 Director





Get Involved in Rapid Response: *Have a voice in the issues important to workers!*

Rapid Response is a grassroots education and action program that gives Steelworker members the ability to have a strong voice and an active role in national and state legislative issues.

Why do we need Rapid Response?

The issues impacting Steelworker members are more critical than ever. Good paying jobs are exiting the country at a very rapid rate due to unfair trade deals and outsourcing. Broken labor laws are undermining the ability of workers to form unions, and in turn, putting even more pressure on Steelworker members to hold the line on benefits and wages. The health care crisis is leaving millions of working people without coverage and resulting in more and more battles at the bargaining table to hang on to benefits. These and other issues are a top priority for our union.

Steelworkers must fight back through Rapid Response. Rapid Response provides the tools to generate necessary changes in the legislative process.

Who can get involved in Rapid Response?

Rapid Response provides an opportunity for all Steelworker members to have an active part in the legislative process. Every local union designates a Local Union Coordinator who, along with the President, recruits a Rapid Response Team. The Team Members are responsible for distributing InfoAlerts and Feedback Reports, as well as making sure Action Calls are carried out.

Rapid Response takes place during working hours, so it is an ideal program for Steelworker members who want to get more involved with the union, but can't make additional commitments outside of work hours. For those Rapid Response activists wanting to take part in additional activities outside of the workplace, there are opportunities to attend rallies or events on key issues.

How does Rapid Response work?

Rapid Response provides the necessary structure to inform every Steelworker member about pending legislation concerning labor and work-related issues.

All information distributed through Rapid Response identifies the issue, its effect on workers and their families, and the sponsors and supporters of the legislation. When it is time to take action on an issue, the information also asks for a specific response.

- ✓ ***InfoAlerts*** – InfoAlerts inform members of relevant issues and legislation. InfoAlerts, like other information from Rapid Response, are received by email or fax. Rapid Response Team Members in the workplace should distribute this information and discuss it one-on-one with other union members.
- ✓ ***Action Calls*** – When action is needed on an issue that affects workers, an “Action Call” is sent. Action Calls may ask members to write a letter, make a phone call, or to take other steps to inform legislators of our positions on issues.
- ✓ ***Feedback Reports*** – When an action is completed, a “Feedback Report” is sent out. This report explains the results of the action, including how legislators voted on certain issues and whether or not they supported our position.

**If you would like more information
on Rapid Response, please contact:**

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