

PROTECTING WORKERS' RIGHTS  
SUPPORTING GOOD JOBS  
ENSURING SAFER AND HEALTHIER WORKPLACES  
BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES  
STRENGTHENING AMERICAN MANUFACTURING  
GROWING THE MIDDLE CLASS  
DEFENDING AGAINST ILLEGAL AND UNFAIR TRADE  
INVESTING IN AMERICA  
WORKING FOR A FAIR ECONOMY

# Rapid Response Basics and Building a Strong Structure

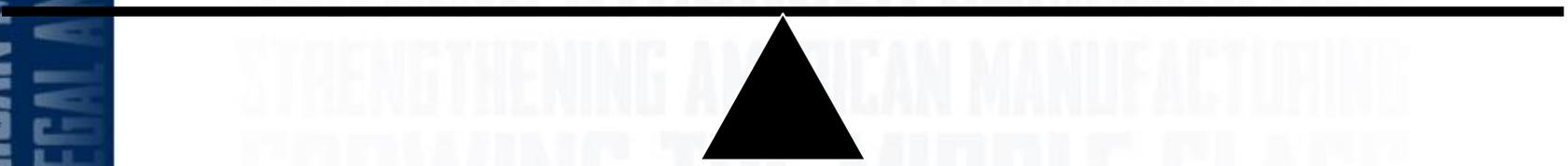
UNITED STEELWORKERS  
**Rapid  
Response**  
and Legislative  
CONFERENCE

# In this workshop...

- Why Care?
- Our Government
- Influencing Lawmakers
- Building Rapid Response

ENSURING SAFER AND HEALTHIER WORKPLACES  
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DEFENDING AGAINST ILLEGAL AND UNFAIR TRADE

# Union Management



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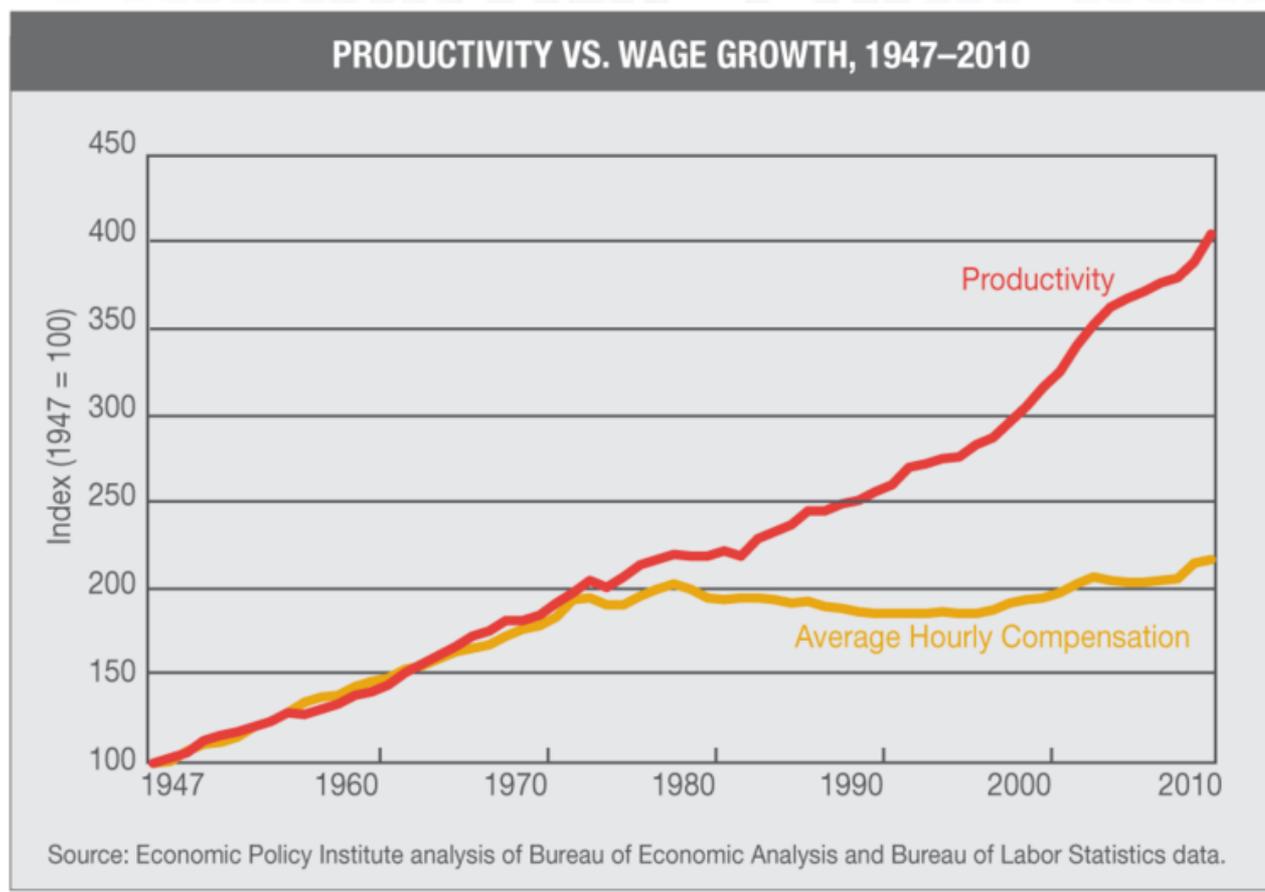
# Our Economy is Out of Balance

ENSURING SAFER AND HEALTHIER WORKPLACES  
STRENGTHENING AMERICAN MANUFACTURING  
DE



ENSURING SAFER AND HEALTHIER WORKPLACES  
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# Our Economy is Out of Balance



WORKING FOR A FAIR ECONOMY

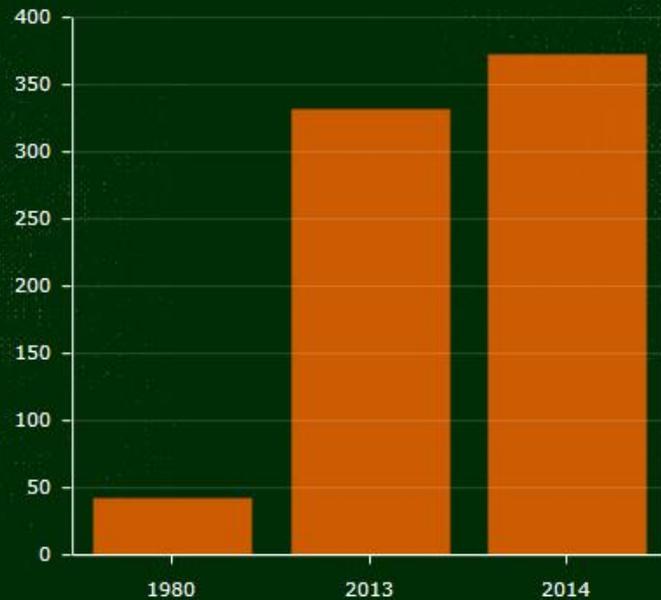
# CEO PAY RISES AGAIN

Today's CEO-to-worker pay ratios are simply unconscionable. While CEO pay is stratospheric, production and nonsupervisory workers took home only \$36,134 on average in 2014, and a full-time worker making the federal minimum wage earned only \$15,080.

IN 2014, THE CEO-TO-WORKER PAY RATIO WAS:

**373:1**

The average S&P 500 Index CEO received **\$13.5 million** in total compensation.



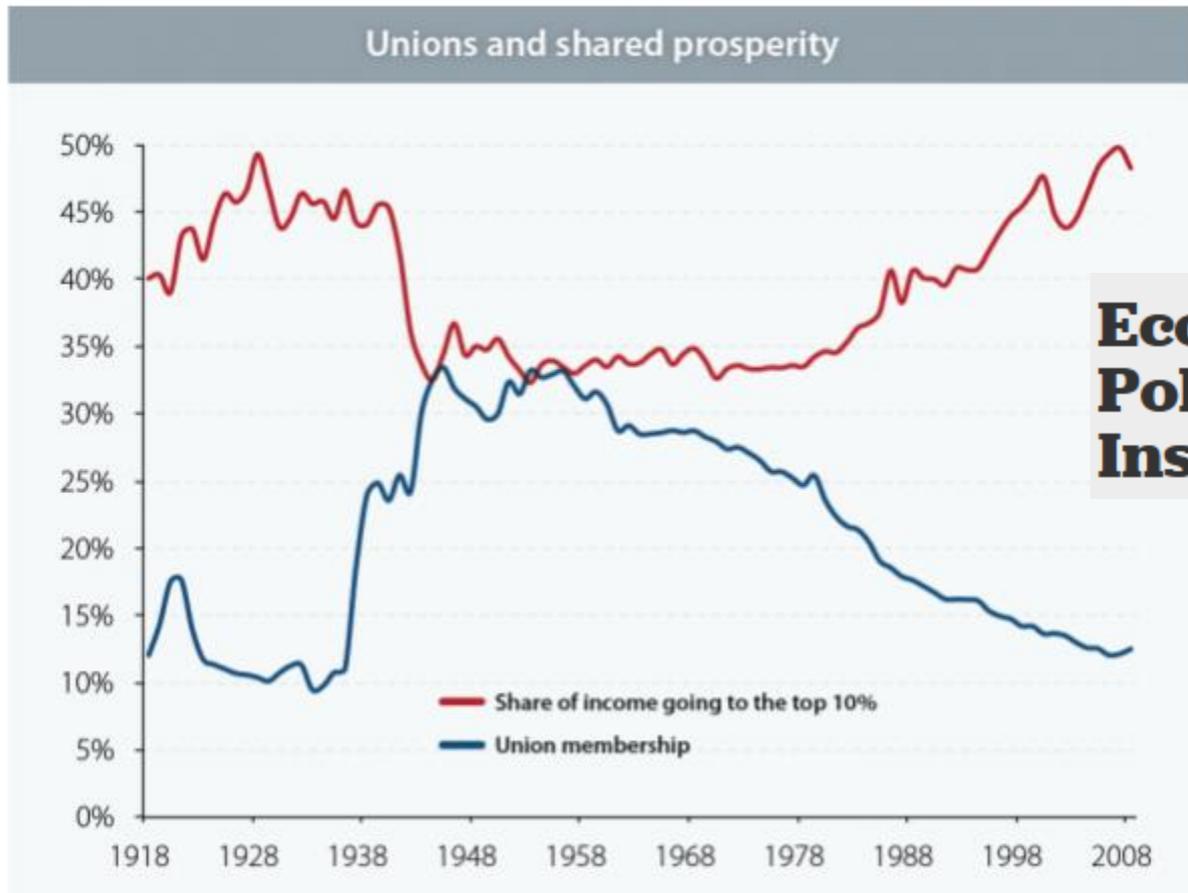
[www.us10.org](http://www.us10.org) or [ite-watch.org](http://ite-watch.org)

ENSURING SAFER AND HEALTHIER WORKPLACES  
STRENGTHENING A MEDIAN MANUFACTURING  
DEFENDING UNFAIR TRADE

WORKING IN AMERICA  
FOR A FAIR ECONOMY

ENSURING SAFER AND HEALTHIER WORKPLACES  
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# As Unions Decline, Inequality Rises



**Economic  
Policy  
Institute**

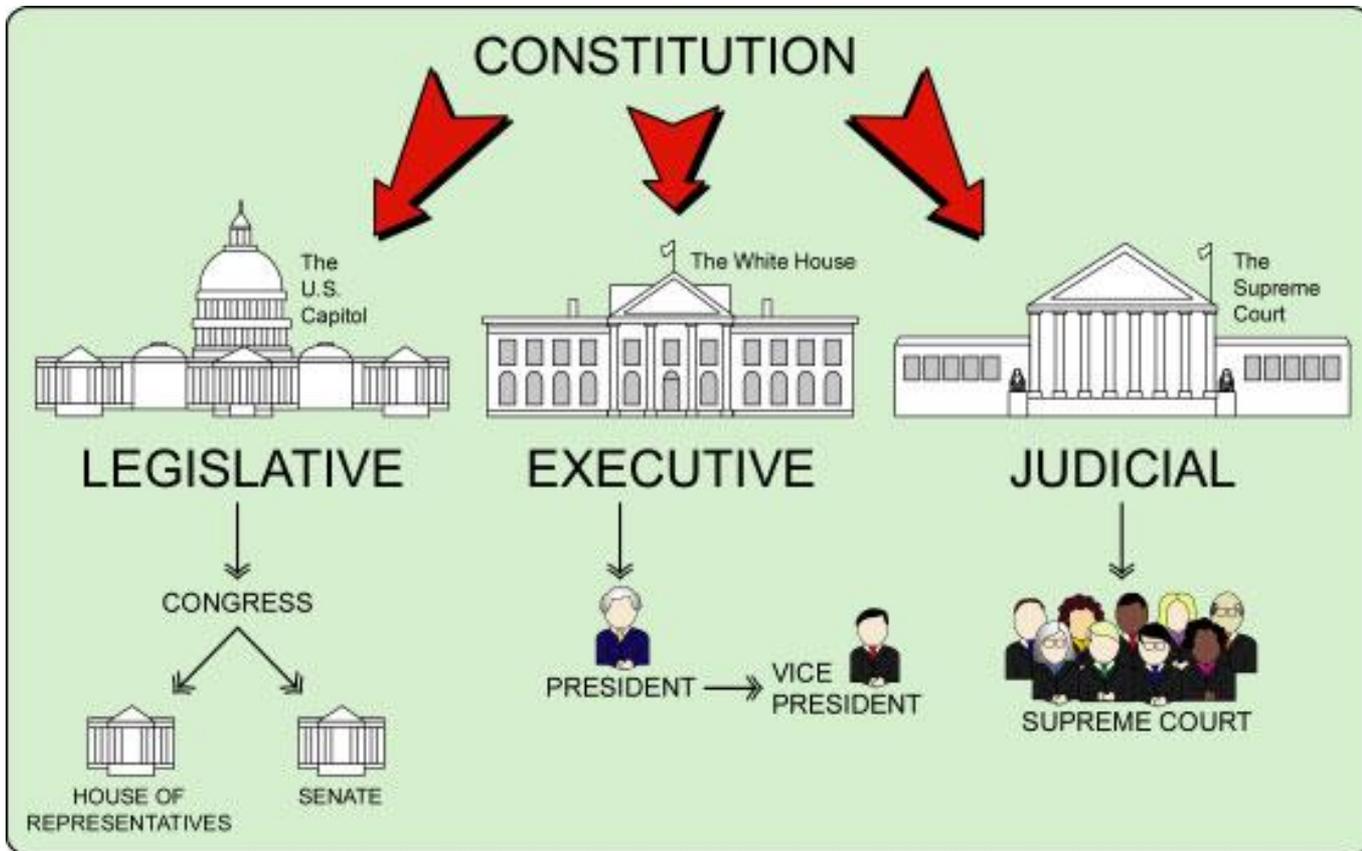
# Issues are Increasingly Critical

- Trade
- Retirement Security
- Workers Rights
- Ability to Organize
- WAGE ACT
- OSHA

Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean that politics won't take an interest in you.

- Pericles (430 BC)

# Three Branches of Government



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# The Presidency

- Minimum qualifications:
  - Born in U.S., 35 years old, lived in U.S. for 14 years or more
- Salary: \$400,000 annually
- Four-year term (max. of two terms)
- Next election?
- First woman to run for VP (for a major party)?



# Congress

- Represents the American people
- Currently in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress
- 100 in Senate (2/state)
- 435-equally populated Districts in the U.S. House
- Terms

Senate – 6 years (1/3 every other year)



# Who Represents Us?

- Made \$174,000 since 2009 (leadership get more)
- YES, they pay into Social Security
- There is a pension plan
- Now get health care through ACA exchanges
- Have staff, office budget
- Office in D.C. and District offices
- Get Committee assignments

**Find out more:**

**[www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) & [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)**

# Who Represents Us?

<b>Congress</b>	<b>General Population</b>
Average Age: 57/House 61/Senate	37
80% White	77%
80% Male	49%

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# How a Bill Becomes a Law



# Rapid Response Works

## Why does it matter to my local?

- **Education** on policy that impacts our working & retirement lives
- Ability to **impact** those legislative decisions
- Provides **experience** in working with elected officials – helpful for non-legislative work too
- Build a communication structure that builds **strength and solidarity**

# Rapid Response Works

## In 2015:

- Stalled Fast Track repeatedly, joining in an unprecedented coalition effort to stand against bad trade policy.
- Got a positive outcome in a historic trade case involving passenger vehicle and light truck tires.
- Fought off right to work legislation in multiple states including Kentucky, West Virginia, New Mexico and Missouri.
- Pushed back against paycheck deception and other anti-worker efforts in multiple states.
- Changed California legislation that could have hurt USW members in the oil sector.
- Worked to ensure our crude oil stays here.
- Took action to repeal the “Chevy Tax.”
- Fighting for fair trade in paper.



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Working to stop the Trans-Pacific

# The Basics

- The history
- Now: 21 years strong
- Fundamentals:  
education, one-on-one  
communication, non-  
partisan, bypass  
traditional bureaucracy

**Rapid Response gives members a way to engage  
and trusts members to vote the right way.**



**If the 99% vote,  
the 1% won't matter!**



**Get Informed**

**Text:  
uswrapid**

**To:  
69866**

Rapid Response

# Get Informed

# Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/USWrapidresponse](http://www.facebook.com/USWrapidresponse)

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# Get the Info Out

- One-on-one communication = the heart of Rapid Response!
- Need to build and maintain a communication network
  - Rapid Response Coordinator
  - Rapid Response Team
  - Mapping your workplace
- Make sure your program can adapt to change within your local!

# Rapid Response Coordinator

- Appointed by Local President
- Recruits a Team along with President & ensures Team Members are engaged
- Keeps the Team informed and ready
- Reports action results
- Reports changes in Team Members
- Personally participates!

# Mapping Your Workplace

*Consider:*

- Goal is 4% minimum (one per 25)
- Amalgamated or Not
- Worksite Layout & Logistical Considerations
- Departments
- Shifts

# Rapid Response Team Members

**What do we need our team members to do?**

- Circulate information to an assigned group of people
- Ensure actions are carried out
- Report results back to the RR Coordinator
- Personally participate!

# Who Should be a Team Member?

Necessary: Willing to do the job

Helpful:

- Interest in legislative issues
- Good communicators
- Respected by fellow members
- In the right place at the right time & can get to others easily

# Who Should be a Team Member?

- Women of Steel
- Next Gen Activists
- Stewards
- New Members
- SOAR
- CAT Team Members
- Political Activists

# Who Should be a Team Member?

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DEFENDING FAIR TRADE



Hey, I need you to pass some stuff out for me . . .



Can I tell you about this great communication network that we have? I think you would really be an asset because. . .

# Supporting Your Team

- Know your team
- Keep your Team together
- Make meetings interesting
- Set high standards
- Don't overload
- Keep people informed
- Acknowledge good work

# Get Active

- Act Only After Thorough Education
- Types: National, State, Local & Targeted Actions
- Defensive vs. Offensive
- Act Only When Impact Can Be Made



# Feedback is Critical!

You'll get "Feedback Reports," but other feedback is just as important:

- From Team Members to Local Coordinator
- From your Local Coordinator to your Team
- Between you and your District Coordinator (or Congressional District or Area Coordinator if applicable)
- Always remember to report back at local

meetings as well

The most common way that people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any.

- Alice Walker