



Name: **Kay Noonan**

Local Number/USW District #: **District 3**

Employer, Job Title: **Retired from Gearmatic Winch**

Years as USW Member: **14 year USW member**

Hometown: **Surrey, B.C.**

**What is unusual about where you live or where you worked?**

In the 1960s and 70s, women, through the support of the union, women took on jobs traditionally held by men. This afforded them opportunities to do things like buy homes, get benefits and do things they wouldn't be able to accomplish otherwise.

**What does this year's theme, "A Union That Works" mean to you?**

The union needs to be inclusive and receptive to changing times. Members need to use their experiences and put them to use in their communities. If people are not coming to the union, we need to go to them.

**What issues are important to you as a SOAR activist and why?**

The younger generation is going to be struggling. Wages have not kept up with the cost of living. Seventy to 75 percent of private employers offer no pensions, so they probably are cutting other benefits.

**What is the most "political" thing you have done?**

When our city council announced that they were going to increase business property taxes, and soon after that our plant announced that it was closing. I went before the council to tell them of the consequences their decision was going to have.

**What new career option do you think Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper should pursue?**

I think he should remain unemployed. He could do less damage that way.

**Who would you prefer to have dinner with, and why: Hilary Clinton, Lady Gaga, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, Will Smith, Richard Trumka or Jennifer Lawrence?**

Actually, I would choose Nelson Mandela. He was an inspiration – an example of what we should all try to be.

**What's the best thing about the SOAR Conference?**

Some of the women delegates are so inspiring. I spoke to a woman from Norfolk, Va., Jan Hooks, she was a crane operator. I look at all of these women with a great deal of admiration for what they've accomplished.

**What things do you hope to do while you're here?**

I saw so much political activism from the American women. I want to pay tribute to the American women and the role models they have been to all of us.

**Have you yet decided how you will put the convention to work when you return home?**

We need to keep up the fight. If I could quote Art Kube, he said that we need to be activist seniors. We need to be part of the solution, not be considered the problem.

