STOP THE KILLING, ENFORCE THE LAW
USW CAMPAIGN BUILDS CANADA-WIDE SUPPORT

“...they’ve never been held accountable. My father paid with his life,” British Columbia resident Tammy Savinkoff said in an emotional video address to the USW convention Thursday.

Tammy’s father, USW member John Wilson, drowned in 2008 when the excavator he was operating toppled into a pond at the B.C. mine site where he worked. John was trapped in the excavator because his employer did not take safety measures required for such equipment. No charges were ever filed, despite Canada’s Westray law.

After 26 workers were killed in the 1992 Westray Mine disaster in Nova Scotia, Canada, Steelworkers lobbied for over a decade until the federal government passed a law holding employers criminally responsible for workplace deaths.

Since the Westray Law was passed in 2004, 9,000 Canadian workers have been killed on the job, but not a single corporate executive or manager has been convicted and jailed – an unbearable injustice for those workers’ families.

Now, more than two decades after the Westray disaster, Steelworkers are again leading a broadly supported, Canada-wide political action campaign – Stop the Killing, Enforce the Law.

The USW campaign, for which public and political support is growing by the day, demands that government criminal justice authorities prosecute employers for workplace tragedies.

Delegates also approved a resolution supporting the continued growth of the Emergency Response Team program, which provides trained and compassionate responders to help accident victims, their families and co-workers in times of tragedy.

The health and safety resolution calls on all USW members to back political candidates who support the health and safety cause and who will press government agencies to serve the best interests of workers.

It pledges unrelenting opposition to corporate legislative efforts to weaken occupational health and safety laws, regulations and enforcement in both the United States and Canada, and it promises the union will work for more progressive legislation to better protect worker rights and safety.

The resolution supports local unions in their efforts to document and control workplace hazards and opposes corporate so-called safety programs that wrongly blame workers for accidents.

BUILDING HEALTHY, ACCIDENT-FREE WORKPLACES

On the final day of the convention, delegates unanimously resolved to redouble efforts to prevent workplace fatalities and catastrophic accidents.

The resolution was approved moments before the convention’s most solemn moment – a scrolling display of the names of workers killed at USW-represented work sites in the three years since the past convention in 2011.

“We have to continue this work until all of our workplaces are accident free,” safety coordinator Terry Davidek of Local 1196 in Pennsylvania said in support of the resolution.
Ohio State Sen. Nina Turner held convention delegates in her hand from the second she assured them, “I am a Mother Jones kinda girl.”
Quoting the 20th century labor and community organizer, Turner said, “She once said she would pray for the dead and fight like hell for the living. That is how I roll all the time.”

It was clear from Turner’s talk why USW District 1 endorsed her for Ohio Secretary of State. This is a candidate who tirelessly fights for labor, brags about it and can’t comprehend politicians who don’t.

“We have people elected to office who have lost their ever loving minds,” she said, “I do not understand why we elect people to office who do not have the ovaries to stand up for working people!”

“We need,” she said, “to elect people who like the people they are serving.”

And, she said, doing that this fall is as important as it was during the U.S. presidential elections of 2008 and 2012.

Anti-worker politicians are suppressing the vote, repressing collective bargaining, and humiliating poor people, she said.

Unionists must work to ensure election of candidates sympathetic to the dreams of the middle class and poor, she said, because, “There is a connection between the bread box and the ballot box.”

Turner lived the struggle of the poor striving to become middle class: “I do understand what it is like to be poor, what it is like not to have food, what it is like to have a mother cry at night because she cannot buy her seven children Christmas gifts.”

As a result, she said, “I understand from a deep place what my job is, and that is to stand up for the middle class, for women, for our children, for collective bargaining rights, for voting rights.”

To accomplish that, she said, candidates like her need the help of unionists. “The house that labor built is on a strong foundation, but the only way it keeps its strength is if each and every one of you commits to doing the hard work.”

U.S. Congressman George Miller, who has represented Northern California’s 11th District since 1975, thanked USW members Thursday for four decades of support as he prepares to retire at the end of his current term.

Miller, who addressed the convention in a videotaped message, said one of the most valuable lessons he’s learned in his career is the importance of a strong labor movement. Extending unemployment, raising the minimum wage, improving workplace safety and opposing unfair trade agreements all help strengthen the labor movement, Miller said. “We’ve got to stop selling out our children’s future,” he said.

Miller also offered special thanks to USW Local 1440 in Pittsburg, Calif., for their support over the years. “They’ve been with me every step of the way,” Miller said.
Next Generation — Convention delegates unanimously adopted a resolution pledging the union to expand its Next Gen program to train and mentor young members to become the union’s next leaders. The convention recognized current Next Gen leaders who appeared on stage, including Elva Martes, District 1; Kevin Mapp and Breahn Quigley Knackert, District 2; Dave Wasiura, Brigitte Womer, Ryan McColligan and R.J. Amandeo, District 4; Manon Bertrand, District 5; Josh Smith and Lisa Cook, District 6; Stephen Lech, William Fulton and Wesley Davis, District 7; Heather Anderson and Chris Ormes, District 8; Alex Perkins, District 9; Jim Johnston, District 10; Katelin Sims, District 11; Tiffaney Lewis and Ryan Meyhoff, District 12; Jennifer Irvin, Brandy Sanders and Marcos Velez, District 13.

RESOLUTIONS: BUILDING POWER THE KEY TO VICTORY

United Steelworkers convention delegates on Thursday recommitted the union to using every tool at its disposal to stand up and fight back for USW members at the bargaining table, unanimously passing Resolution No. 10: Building Union Power for Bargaining.

Eric McClellan, a member of USW Local 7-669 at Honeywell in Metropolis, Ill., was one of a dozen delegates who spoke in favor of the resolution. McClellan said the Building Power program helped his local remain strong during a 13-month lockout in 2011, which ended with a new contract that resisted the company’s draconian demands.

McClellan told delegates that strengthening the Building Power program was essential for his local and others that face similar fights, particularly in light of Honeywell’s decision to lock out Local 7-669 members again earlier this month.

“We don’t know what it was, finally, that we did that turned the tide,” McClellan said. “What we do know is that it takes 1,000 points of pressure, and that’s what this Building Power program does.”

“One thing is clear – through the Building Power program, our membership is delivering a clear message to Honeywell – the concession stand is closed,” he said.

Also on Thursday, USW convention delegates overwhelmingly approved resolutions to reinvigorate the USW’s commitment to building the Next Generation program; promoting Rapid Response and legislative activism; training and career development; occupational health and safety; building and promoting the use of the Emergency Response Team; providing assistance and training to workers around the world; ensuring access to affordable health care; protecting pensions and Social Security; strengthening Medicare and Medicaid; protecting labor rights; strategically amalgamating unions; fighting for job creation and community investment and supporting worker-ownership programs.

In what International President Leo W. Gerard said was a first, a resolution pledging the union to expanding the organiz-
# 2014 Spirit of the Fight Award Recipients

**District 1**  
Local 979  
President - Mark Granakis  
R. R. Coordinator - Jim Ciomek

**District 2**  
Local 1299  
President - Jim Allen  
R. R. Coordinator - Randy Clay

**District 4**  
Local 1357  
President – Robert Giusti  
R. R. Coordinators - Donald Rei

**District 7**  
Local 715L  
President - Jeff Knoblauch  
R. R. Coordinator – Charlie Odier

**District 8**  
Local 831L  
President - Danny Barber  
R. R. Coordinator - Mark Powers

**District 9**  
Local 351  
President - Mark Williams  
R. R. Coordinator - Dexter Beams

**District 10**  
Local 1852  
President - Bob Crebs  
R. R. Coordinator - Ken Mummert

**District 11**  
Local 7686  
President - Stan Ivie  
R. R. Coordinator - Cameron Redd

**District 12**  
Local 338  
President – Dan Wilson  
R. R. Coordinators – Rich Prete and Dan Wilson

**District 13**  
Local 5702  
President - David Delaneuville  
R. R. Coordinator - David Delaneuville

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# THE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (PAC) AWARDS

**Presented at 2014 USW Convention**

Bob LaVenture, PAC Director, District 12

Billy Thompson, PAC Director, District 8

Mike Millsap, PAC Director, District 7