December 1, 2017

USW Local Union Presidents, Recording Secretaries and Rapid Response Coordinators:

We are excited to announce the 2018 Rapid Response and Legislative Conference. It will be held from May 21-23, 2018, in Washington, D.C., at the Omni Shoreham Hotel.

Every time we walk into our workplaces or sit down at the negotiating table, laws and policies impact us. Elected representatives are making decisions about the rules that shape how our pensions and healthcare plans operate, the policies that govern overtime and safety standards, and even the very laws that establish our ability to have a union. The question is: will we have a role in shaping these decisions?

By getting involved in Rapid Response and our union’s legislative work, the answer is yes. Rapid Response is our union’s network to educate, empower, and engage in issues critical to working people in a non-partisan way. Much is on the line in the current legislative environment, making our time in Washington, D.C., especially important.

Conference veterans know this gathering provides an opportunity to take our message directly to decision-makers and show our strength in numbers. Our presence in the nation’s capital underscores our reputation as a fighting union with engaged members who take legislation seriously and hold lawmakers accountable. It’s also how we build skills to apply to other challenges we face at our locals.

Whether your local has been attending our national conference for years or is contemplating attending for the first time, we need your participation. Expect plenary sessions on pressing issues, skill-building workshops to dive deeply into specific topics, and a day where we’ll meet with lawmakers to make sure our issues are on their agenda. If your local is just starting out in Rapid Response, we’ll have workshops to help get your program off the ground.

We encourage every local to take part. We all have a stake. Rapid Response Coordinators and Team Members along with Local leadership are strongly encouraged to attend.

Schedule

Registration – Conference registration will take place on Sunday, May 20, from 1:00-7:00 p.m., and on Monday, May 21, from 7:00-9:00 a.m.

Monday, May 21 & Tuesday, May 22 – The conference will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday. General sessions and workshops will continue throughout Monday and Tuesday. Check our conference website at www.usw.org/RR-conference for announcements on speakers and additional details.
**Wednesday, May 23 – Lobby Day & Closing Reception** – In the morning, we’ll head to Capitol Hill for a day of fighting for our agenda and meetings with elected officials. That evening, we’ll hold a special closing reception.

**Registration**

Please pre-register online, by mail, or by fax before April 27, 2018. There will be a discounted early-bird registration fee of $175 per delegate if registering before April 1, 2018. If registering after that date, the regular fee will be $200. Checks should be made payable to *USW Secretary-Treasurer*.

**Online Registration** – Go to our Rapid Response website at www.usw.org/RR-conference and follow the instructions. Either pay online or mail a check to the address below; or

**Mail Registration** – Mail the enclosed registration form and your check to: United Steelworkers Rapid Response, 60 Blvd. of the Allies, 7th Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15222; or

**Fax Registration** – Fax the enclosed registration form to the USW Rapid Response Department at 412-562-2266, then mail checks to United Steelworkers Rapid Response at the address above.

**Hotel & Airline Information**

**Hotel** – A block of rooms has been reserved at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C. Attendees should make their own hotel reservations by calling the hotel and referring to the *United Steelworkers 2018 Rapid Response and Legislative Conference*. If you prefer to book online, a link is available at www.usw.org/RR-conference. The hotel will accept reservations until April 27, 2018. To ensure availability, please make your reservations as soon as possible.

The room rate is $244 a night. All rates are subject to 14.5% tax. A credit card will be needed to reserve the room. If a reservation must be cancelled, please do so 72 hours before arrival or your card will be charged. Payments made by check must be received by the hotel one month prior to check in. Check-in is 3:00 p.m. and check-out is 12:00 p.m. Hotel parking is currently $49 daily.

Omni Shoreham Hotel  
2500 Calvert St., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20008  
Phone: 202-234-0700 (ask for the United Steelworkers 2018 Rapid Response and Legislative Conference)  
A link for online hotel reservations can be found at: www.usw.org/RR-conference

**Air Transportation** – In cooperation with Professional Travel, we have made special arrangements for air transportation. Reservations may be made by calling 1-877-499-1149 and selecting option #4. When calling, please identify yourself as a participant in the 2018 Rapid Response and Legislative Conference, code 2018USWRRL. Please call between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday; otherwise, an after-hours transaction fee of $16.00 will apply if the call is outside of these regular business hours.

In accordance with our established policy, the International Union will not be responsible for the cost of delegate(s) participation. Your local union must bear any expenses for attendance, including airfare and hotel fees.
Stay Connected

Watch for additional announcements on our conference webpage at www.usw.org/RR-conference and join our conference mobile alerts by texting DC2018 to 69866 (standard messaging and data rates may apply).

If you have any questions regarding the registration process or conference details, please contact the Rapid Response Department at 412-562-2291. We look forward to your local’s participation in what promises to be a very exciting conference.

In solidarity,

Leo W. Gerard
International President

Stan Johnson
International Secretary-Treasurer

Enclosure