It’s the holiday season, and it won’t be quite as merry in the homes of more and more United Steelworkers this year. Nearly 20,000 USW members have lost their jobs in the past two years, as more production has stopped at America’s once-thriving steel mills.

President Trump promised to restore the United States steel industry, even telling a crowd during a campaign stop in Pennsylvania’s Mon Valley - once the heart of the American steel industry - that, “we are going to put American steel and aluminum back into the backbone of the country.”

It’s now been one year since he was elected and Trump seems to have put steel and aluminum on the backburner of the country.

The president recently returned from a whirlwind tour of a series of Far Eastern countries; indicating he would be working with foreign leaders on trade issues that would benefit American manufacturing, especially the steel industry that suffers at the hands of China’s mass overcapacity and dumping of its poor-quality steel.

It turns out that the trip was all pomp and circumstance which Trump thoroughly enjoyed. In the meantime, the president did not produce one new single concession from China, South Korea or Japan.

Previously to his trip, he had relegated trade issues to the backburner behind tax reform and infrastructure.

Currently, a tax plan is unfolding in Congress, which is nothing more than a holiday gift to America’s large corporations; because the massive tax benefits they receive will do nothing more than encourage them to reinvest more of their company’s jobs offshore.

Trump further went on to say that trade issues would not be addressed until after an infrastructure plan was in place. The fear is that the United States will be lacking in manufacturers to supply a massive infrastructure project. But when, and if, a trillion-dollar infrastructure plan is implanted, this could jumpstart America’s steel industry. We could once again have a blast furnace up and running in the Midwest and bring back steelworker jobs.

But so far, Trump has been all talk and no action. By delaying the ruling on the Section 232 investigation prohibiting foreign steel, which the administration promised to address at the end of June, steel imports have risen more than 20 percent.

Steelworkers, and Americans from all walks of life, are still suffering under Trump and his broken promises. It’s something to think about when the president is enjoying the holidays from his palatial Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida.

To the rest of hard-working Americans his message is clear: Bah Humbug!

Jeff Bonior is a staff writer for the Alliance for American Manufacturing

“When dictatorship is a fact, revolution is a duty”.

- Armadeu de Prado
What's Missing?

Have you noticed that much of the basis and argument the Republicans are putting forth for their tax plan is that it will create more employment and may increase income for the middle–working class? This rationale and argument has no basis or merit based on the facts. The facts are clear and proven: Giving more tax breaks to the wealthy and tax breaks to corporations have not trickled down to the middle-working class. This has been tried before and failed. There simply is no empirical evidence to support the basis for the Republican plan to take care of the wealthy and corporations. And it is clear that an overwhelming amount of any tax cuts are going to corporations and the wealthy, while increasing the country’s debt that we all will have to pay for in the future. In addition, it is estimated that this plan will result in cuts to Medicare and Medicaid.

What’s missing from the news and the argument that will increase wages and help the middle-working class? The benefit of Unions and collective bargaining and empowering workers. There is no question that as Union density has been reduced so has the status of the middle class and workers. We have witnessed a great transfer of wealth from the working class to the top one percent. At the same time, we have witnessed a continuing attack on Unions through so called “right to work” for less laws and other anti-union attacks.

History has proven that protecting and enhancing workers’ rights through Unionism and Collective Bargaining works. Remember the progress in the 40’s 50’s 60’s, etc. that increased wages and benefits as workers organized? The narrative has to change and honesty should prevail.

Bill Gibbons, PACE Representative

Consumers Prefer and Trust Print on Paper According to Survey

An international survey of over 10,700 consumers was commissioned by Two Sides and carried out by an independent research company Toluna in June 2017. The survey was undertaken in ten countries: Australia, Brazil, France, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Overall, findings conclude that consumers trust, enjoy and gain a deeper understanding of information read in print, with signs of digital fatigue and concern for security and privacy evident.

The G.O.P. tax plan will strip health care away from 13M Americans and increase health insurance premiums by 10 percent. Take action now and call your senators at 844-899-9913 and tell them to vote NO!
Happy Holidays from Pittsburgh!

As the holiday season approaches, I extend to you the warmest greetings of the season and best wishes for the coming year. One of my favorite things about the holidays is being able to get together with my family, share stories about the past year, and be thankful for our time together. Over the years I’ve noticed that how we communicate during the months in between has changed greatly. In addition to talking on the phone, many of us now communicate by email, social media (Facebook) and Skype or FaceTime. While I used to complain about the internet and social media, it’s become essential to staying in touch with my family, as well as keeping up with what is going on in the world. Integrating the use of the internet and social media into SOAR’s communication strategy is essential to preparing for the significant number of “baby boomers” who will be retiring over the coming years.

In many ways, this generation of retirees is unlike any other in American history. Baby boomers are much more likely to be college educated than previous generations of retirees, and are starting to get their news from alternative sources rather than picking up the newspaper or reading a magazine. To successfully organize and communicate with this new generation of USW retirees, our union must be flexible and ready to adapt accordingly.

Stories about the activism of SOAR members can be a tool to help organize and educate both retired and active working members about the many ways our union is fighting back on behalf of working people. How people consume their news is changing and we need to do a better job of using the internet and social media to share their stories of activism with fellow SOAR members, with USW members that are nearing retirement, and even those who have only recently joined our union.

As leaders of SOAR, you know that our solidarity is something to be celebrated and shared. You know that our solidarity has benefited not only our lives, but has helped us secure a better future for our children and grandchildren. You know that when workers do better, we all do better. You also know that all of our retiree’s “good work” doesn’t just happen during the holiday season – it goes on year round.

With this in mind, we’ve added a new tool to our website that will make it easier for SOAR members to tell their stories about why SOAR is important to them and how it’s made a difference in their lives and communities. To use this tool, simply go to our website at www.usw.org/soar and look for the box you see below. The stories we’ve already collected through this tool are being shared online (usw.org/soar), on social media (Facebook) and in our quarterly SOAR in Action.

Thank you for all that you do to build SOAR and for allowing us to “Tell Your SOAR Story.”

Julie Stein, SOAR Director
Happy Holidays, But….

I would like to wish everyone a joyous, healthy holiday season. But, as we enjoy the holidays, we cannot lose our focus on the workings in Washington. Our President says he is creating jobs at an unprecedented pace. He brags about the record breaking stock market. He takes credit for the lowest unemployment numbers in over 15 years. I have to ask why a tax break would be necessary to help companies?

Further, why would companies that are making so much money that they are buying back their stock at a premium because they do not know what else to do with their money, need a tax break? Why does Congress believe that 13 million people should lose healthcare to help pay for these tax breaks? Is it really more important to provide more tax-free inheritance before taxes are deducted than to maintain Social Security and Medicare for our retirees?

I do not have enough space to identify all the problems with the present tax proposal. I suggest you look up “carried interest” or “S Corporations” or “Chained CPI” or “pay as you go,” as they relate to this tax plan to see for yourself who will receive the majority of the benefits of their plan and who will be ultimately stuck paying for it.

Please go to the Alliance for Retired Americans website or to the SOAR website to see articles that will help you understand how to talk about these issues and contact your representatives to let them know how you feel. We cannot let our guard down just because of the holidays and must be determined to do whatever we can to make sure that our retirees are not harmed by these tax proposals. To get a small, temporary reduction in our taxes today is not a fair trade for all the harm it may cause to our retirees in the future.

Bill Pienta, SOAR President

Felices días de Fiestas – Pero …

Me gustaría desearles a todos una temporada festiva gozosa y saludable. Pero, a medida que disfrutamos de las fiestas, no podemos perder nuestro enfoque en el funcionamiento en Washington. Nuestro presidente dice que está creando empleos a un ritmo sin precedentes. Se jacta de romper el récord del mercado de valores. Toma el crédito por los números de desempleo más bajos en más de 15 años. Tengo que preguntarme por qué sería necesario un recorte de impuestos para ayudar a las empresas.

Además, ¿por qué las empresas que están ganando tanto dinero que están volviendo a comprar sus acciones con una prima porque no saben qué más hacer con su dinero, necesitan una exención de impuestos? ¿Por qué el Congreso cree que 13 millones de personas deberían perder la atención médica para ayudar a pagar estas exenciones fiscales? ¿Es realmente más importante proporcionar más herencia libre de impuestos antes de deducir los impuestos que mantener el Seguro Social y Medicare para nuestros jubilados?

No tengo suficiente espacio para identificar todos los problemas con la presente propuesta de impuestos. Le sugiero que busque "intereses acumulados" o "Corporaciones S" o "CPI Encadenado" o "pague sobre la marcha", ya que se relacionan con este plan fiscal para ver usted mismo quién recibirá la mayoría de los beneficios de su plan y quién será últimamente pegado pagando por ello.

Visite el sitio web de Alliance for Retired / Americans o el sitio web de SOAR para ver artículos que lo ayudarán a comprender cómo hablar sobre estos temas y contactar a sus representantes para informarles cómo se sintió. No podemos bajar la guardia solo por las vacaciones y debemos estar decididos a hacer todo lo posible para asegurarnos de que nuestros jubilados no se vean perjudicados por estas propuestas de impuestos. Obtener una pequeña reducción temporal en nuestros impuestos hoy no es un intercambio comercial por el daño que pueda causar a nuestros jubilados en el futuro.

Bill Pienta, presidente de SOAR  
(Translation by Dorine Godinez, President of SOAR Chapter 30-18)
The McNeil Report

- The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90 percent probability you'll get it wrong.
- It is said that if you line up all the cars in the world end-to-end, someone would be stupid enough to try to pass them.
- If the shoe fits, get another one just like it.

Teacher: John, why are you doing your math multiplication on the floor?
John: You told me to do it without using tables.

Teacher: Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile'?
Teacher: No, that's wrong
Glenn: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it.

Teacher: Now, Simon, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?
Simon: No sir, I don't have to, my Mum is a good cook.

Elaine Sez...

From Our home to yours:
Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Old Charlie Sez...
Don’t forget to make that phone call that you see on the bottom of page 2, and then:
Merry Christmas Everyone!
We Must Not Return to Trickle-Down Economics

by Robert Roach, Jr.

The U.S. House recently approved a plan to provide tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans and corporations. If the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act becomes law, the deficit will explode by more than $1.4 trillion and automatic spending cuts will kick in. For starters, there will be a $25 billion cut from Medicare, and more from Medicaid. In addition, eliminating the medical expense deduction will make it harder for families with high medical expenses, many of whom are seniors, to make ends meet.

Republican members of the Senate Finance Committee used their version of the tax bill to repeal the individual mandate to purchase health insurance. The move is likely to have a devastating effect on Americans between the ages of 50 and 64, since allowing some people to opt out of insurance coverage will leave 13 million others without coverage. Furthermore, the cost of health insurance premiums will skyrocket for those who stay in the market.

Congress’ Joint Committee on Taxation says that within ten years, the Senate bill will raise income taxes on every family making between $10,000 and $75,000 per year, while giving large tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans.

President Trump is pressing the House and Senate to approve a final bill before Christmas.

This is clearly a return to the trickle-down economics that failed. To demand that the GOP tax plan goes no further, call your Representative and Senators at 866-828-4162 and tell them to reject this outrageous tax bill.

Robert Roach, Jr. is president of the Alliance for Retired Americans. He was previously General Secretary–Treasurer of the IAMAW. For more information, visit www.retiredamericans.org.

I believe that tax reform legislation must provide greater equity among taxpayers, encourage productive economic investments, and not increase the national deficit. I opposed the House Republican tax legislation because it meets none of these requirements. For example, this legislation would eliminate the medical expense tax deduction which helps seniors, the chronically ill, and individuals in long-term care facilities pay certain qualified medical expenses, repeal the tax deduction available to teachers for up to $250 of the cost of purchasing classroom supplies, and impair our local nonprofit hospitals’ ability to finance capital improvements. Instead, it is a $1.7 trillion addition to our national deficit. This legislation will require today’s children and grandchildren to finance this debt.

Source: From Facebook page of Congressman, Pete Visclosky (D-IN)
The health and financial security of older Americans and people with disabilities are being put at risk by the Republican tax scheme under consideration in the House of Representatives. The bill cuts tax credits and deductions critical to the financial security of many middle-class Americans and their families to help pay for large tax cuts for the wealthy and large corporations. Whether it is the employment of people with disabilities, the cost of out-of-pocket medical expenses, or making the country’s businesses accessible to older citizens and people with disabilities, the Republican tax scheme will make it more costly and more difficult for older adults and Americans with disabilities to live prosperous, independent lives.

- **It eliminates a tax deduction vital to Americans with high medical costs.** By taking away medical deductions from personal income taxes, the Republican proposal would hurt older citizens with greater medical needs, people with disabilities and chronic medical conditions, and families with children who have congenital or genetic disorders and disabilities. Almost 8.8 million households claimed the medical deduction in 2015. The average deduction claimed was close to $10,000 and the cost of deducting long-term care could be ten times that amount.

- **It eliminates an incentive for businesses to hire people with disabilities, including older Americans with disabilities.** The Republican proposal would eliminate the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, which provides businesses with a federal tax credit for hiring people with disabilities, as well as others, including unemployed veterans. The current tax credit for hiring a person with a disability can be as high as $2,400 for a business.

- **It threatens research into treatments that disproportionately benefit older Americans and people with disabilities.** The bill eliminates the orphan drug tax credit, decreasing the likelihood that pharmaceutical companies would invest in research to address rare diseases and conditions. Older Americans and individuals with disabilities are more likely to be among the over 30 million Americans that have a rare disease or condition. An independent study conducted in 2015 estimated that if the orphan drug credit were repealed one-third fewer drugs addressing rare diseases would be developed in the future.

- **It makes it more costly for small businesses to hire people with disabilities, including older Americans with disabilities.** The Republican proposal would eliminate the small business tax credit for making a business more accessible to employees with disabilities, older workers, and customers with disabilities. For businesses with revenues of less than $1 million a year or less than 30 employees, a tax credit up to $5,000 is available for renovations and adaptations to make a business more disability accessible.
It reduces incentives for charitable giving to organizations that provide services to older Americans and individuals with disabilities. Proposals that would indirectly reduce tax incentives for charitable giving could limit access to critical services and supports for older adults and people with disabilities. Many of those living at home receive services from community-based organizations, including transportation, adult day and nutrition programs, and information services. These organizations often rely on a combination of sources for funding, including grants from state and federal governments, fees for services, and—importantly—charitable contributions.

It may result in older Americans and individuals with disabilities paying more taxes on Social Security benefits. If older Americans and individuals with disabilities can’t deduct their medical expenses, many will likely need to draw down more resources from tax-deferred accounts. Distribution from this type of account is considered income. The more income reported, the more an individual’s Social Security benefit could be taxed.

It could stifle investments in new facilities and homes, especially in underserved communities, that provide older Americans and people with disabilities a place to live. The Republican proposal eliminates the New Markets Tax Credit Program, which provides incentives to businesses that decide to establish themselves in low-income and distressed communities. This credit has supported over 5,000 businesses nationwide, including hospitals and other health care facilities. The bill also eliminates municipal bonds and associated tax relief that makes it possible to build non-profit hospitals, low-income housing, and public education facilities that older adults, people with disabilities, and their families rely on.

It would squeeze state and local budgets, putting a strain on health benefits, social services, schools, and other programs that older adults and people with disabilities need to live with dignity. The Republican proposal would eliminate the ability to deduct state and local income and sales taxes from federal taxable income. Removing the deduction would make it harder for states to raise revenues, further squeezing already tight budgets that help pay for Medicaid, education, transportation, and other local services important to older Americans, people with disabilities, and families.

Massive tax cuts threaten Medicaid and Medicare. This tax scheme is part of a two-step plan: cut taxes for the wealthy now and pay for tax cuts later. The Republican tax plan increases the deficit by $1.5 trillion, and the Republican budget plan would cut approximately $1 trillion from Medicaid and $470 billion from Medicare. To realize these cuts, Medicaid per-capita caps or block grants could be instituted, requiring states to increase taxes or cut needed care, like nursing home services and home care. Proposals to cut benefits or shift higher health care costs to older adults and people with disabilities could also be used to pay for tax cuts, such as turning Medicare into a voucher program, raising the eligibility age from 65 to 67, or increasing cost-sharing.

“The power of the people is greater than the people in power”—Senator Cory Booker
Is It Medicare Or Medicaid?

A lot of people have a difficult time understanding the difference between Medicare and Medicaid. Both programs begin with the letter “M.” They’re both health insurance programs run by the government. People often ask questions about what Medicare and Medicaid are, what services they cover, and who administers the programs.

Let’s start with Medicare. Medicare is the earned-benefit program for Americans aged 65 or older or disabled. Workers pay into Medicare throughout their working years. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is the agency in charge of both Medicare and Medicaid, but you sign up for Medicare A (Hospital) and Medicare B (Medical) through Social Security.

You can apply for Medicare online from the convenience of your home at the link on our website: www.socialsecurity.gov/medicare/. If you’re already receiving Social Security retirement benefits when you reach age 65 or are in the 25th month of receiving disability checks, we will enroll you automatically.

Medicare Part C (Medicare Advantage) and Part D (Prescription Drug) plans are available for purchase in the insurance marketplace. Social Security administers a program called Extra Help to help people with low income and low resources pay for premiums, co-pays, and co-insurance costs for Part D plans. You can find out more about Extra Help and file for it at www.socialsecurity.gov/medicare/prescriptionhelp. Each year, The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services publishes Medicare and You available online at their website at www.medicare.gov/medicare-and-you/medicare-and-you.html. This publication is a user’s manual for Medicare.

Each state runs its own Medicaid program under guidance from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Medicaid offers care for the most vulnerable among us. While it does not require paying taxes while working, it does have guidelines about how much income and resources you can have to qualify. Medicaid provides coverage for older people, people with disabilities, and some families with children. Each state has its own eligibility rules and decides which services to cover. The names of the Medicaid program may vary from state to state. You can read about each state’s Medicaid program at www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/how-to-apply. You can find each state’s Medicaid contact information at www.medicaid.gov/about-us/contact-us/contact-state-page.html.

Medicare and Medicaid are two of the major insurance programs that provide healthcare to the American public. Understanding each program, as well as how the two programs differ, can help you and those you care about find the right healthcare program.

Source: Social Security Matters

Important Notice

Don’t forget to get that flu shot. And those of you on a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan (PDP), remember that the deadline to change plans is December 7. You can usually find all of the plans listed in the back of the Medicare & You Handbook and also on the Medicare web site at www.medicare.gov. Many pharmacies will help you find the plan best suited to your needs. Also, you can call the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) at 1-800-452-4800.
Let There Be Peace On Earth
Harry Connick Jr.

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father
Brothers all are we.
Let me walk with my brother
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow.
To take each moment
And live each moment
With peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth,
And let it begin with me.

1997

The folks in Indiana at the end of 80's May,
were enjoying labor efforts in the North.
Then a company called NIPSCO picked a fight
with workers there
and the great Steelworkers took the battle forth.

A strike was called and workers fought a long
and bitter war;
and they sacrificed to keep their dignity.
Eight months later, this great union through its
solidarity
won the longest utility strike in history.

Although we won the battle and benefits were
saved,
we just couldn't give the company our trust.
But by 1997, after 17 long years
it was thought in our best interest that we must.

So we sought a transformation which might meet
the company's needs
with deregulation barking at our heels;
but also help our members who have sacrificed
so much,
just to bail out the company's bad deals.

So the workers took a chance by letting all by
gones go by;
and NIPSCO said they'd change their ways as
well.
We began to work together all the way to
contract time
when the company said, ------ "go right straight
to hell."

So the members starting picketing to stop the
corporate greed
and to show the public NIPSCO was a hog.
And it wasn't long fore NIPSCO learned a lesson
centuries old
"It's not the dog that's in the fight but it's the fight
that's in the dog."

Our goal was clear to everyone, we knew what
must be done ;
to show this company that we were here to stay.
So by the thousands workers marched to show
their solidarity ;
and got a contract, God bless the USWA!

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Retirement Talk Podcast
What to do with the rest of your life?
Episode 550-Retiring at the same time as your spouse

This is Del Lowery with, “Retirement Talk”.

"What is it like to retire at the same time as your spouse?" is a question some of us face. In this area I have some experience. Like 30 years worth. Perhaps my experience can open a window for you to view at least this one attempt.

I remember deciding to retire and told my wife that I would always drop her a card from exotic destinations all over the world. She didn’t see the humor. She knew that there might be a chance that I would do that very thing. The day I retired - she retired.

What has been our experience of adjusting to this new arrangement in our relationship? We have all heard horror stories about the idea of the man being underfoot - so to speak. When I ask my wife for comment for this program she never mentioned it. So…I guess I wasn’t underfoot.

We have found things to fill up our hours without interfering with each other. In the mornings we each go to our personal stations. She sleeps later than I. We eat breakfast alone. Then she focused on watercolor in her studio. I arise earlier; practiced Tai Chi, shoot a few hoops and then practice the guitar for at least two hours.

Except for the guitar there is no sound in our house until after noon: nothing electric; no radio, no TV, no music – other than the guitar. I always ask her if the music bothers her, but she always claims that she rarely hears it. I guess she is focused on painting and my music is just meaningless background. Perhaps that is a reflection of how well or poorly I play.

A little side note here about the lack of electronic stuff coming into the house before noon. We have found it very refreshing to save all political chicanery, airplane crashes, murders, fires, crashes, and wars for later in the day - usually presented to us in the print media. I could never figure out why people listen to the news in the morning. It seems like such a poor way to start a day that you at least have hopes of enjoying.

At 11 o’clock we join together to get our exercise. She and I see this as a real plus in retiring at the same time. It is easier to keep to a regimented exercise program if you have someone to do it with. Types of activities have varied over the years but have included skiing, playing racquetball, running, cycling, lifting weights, ballroom dancing, or just going for a fast walk. We are to lunchtime without getting in each other’s way. It has worked this way for all these 30 years – and counting.

In the afternoons we again pursue our own particular interest whatever that might be, or we might join together on some project around the house or in the community. We might do a woodworking project: building a greenhouse, a table, a deck, or an addition to our house. She might go shopping or run errands. I might work at the computer or write.

Late afternoons always sees us coming together again for coffee. We are regular customers at the local coffee shops. We know the baristas by name and they know our drinks. This is not as simple as it seems since we rotate between several different coffee shops; two in Bellingham and three in Vancouver. Here is where we read the paper or a magazine, do a crossword, or talk to friends. It is our place to socialize first and foremost. We love to sit and solve all world and local problems within the time it takes to drink an Americano.

Just because you retire at the same time doesn’t mean you can’t do things your spouse doesn’t do. We have each taken different classes and workshops and explored various aspects of painting, music, language, or technology. Sometimes we have traveled separately and certainly spent our time having lunch with friends where the other is banned.
Retiring at the same time has fostered a time to work together on projects. We have enjoyed working together on human rights issues, community projects, political campaigns, and environmental problems. It is great to have the same time and interests to combine efforts.

I think we have grown closer since retirement. We are more sensitive to each other’s needs to run off and be alone or to just sit quietly. We are more sensitive in criticizing each other. After 52 years together retirement has been our closest years. Perhaps we are more comfortable with our own egos. We are more assured of our place in universe and we are more aware of the importance of each of us to each other.

Of course, I realize this may not be the case for everyone. Perhaps your experience has been different. If so, drop me a line at www.retirementtalk.org and I will read your letter on a program. It will be good for all of us to hear different approaches, different practices, and the unique circumstances that may have led to different approaches, different practices, and the unique circumstances that may have led to various results.

This is Retirement Talk.
If you have any questions, comment or suggestions contact: del@retirementtalk.org

Del Lowery

Thank you for your Rapid Response - Solidarity this Holiday Season

As was stated in a recent Rapid Response Action Call, solidarity means sticking with our sisters and brothers and having one another’s backs, especially at difficult times. This year, with so many members having to piece their homes and lives back together following the devastation caused by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, members across the country stepped up in solidarity to help. As we approach this holiday season, we thank each and every local and member who watches out for one another all throughout the year, and especially right now. When times are tough, we come together and do our best to help our members in need. That’s the heart of what being union is about.

On behalf of SOAR, we especially want to express our gratitude and to thank each and every SOAR chapter and member who contributed to the “Disaster Relief Fund” with your generous donations and helping hands to assist USW members who were caught in the paths of these hurricanes.

While our efforts are off to a good start, the need does remain significant. If your SOAR Chapter has not already, please consider a donation to the United Steelworkers Charitable and Educational Organization. All donations will go to our members, to help and encourage them, as they piece their lives back together following these staggering storms.

- Locals and SOAR Chapters are urged to raise funds through plant gate or worksite collections, and can also use treasury funds, with membership approval. If you collect cash, please combine it together and have your Local or SOAR Chapter write a check.
- Checks should be made payable to: United Steelworkers Charitable and Educational Organization and mailed to the address below. Please note Disaster Relief Fund in the memo line on your check.

United Steelworkers
Attn: Steelworkers Charitable Fund
60 Blvd of the Allies
Pittsburgh, PA  15222

Thank you in advance for your help at this critical time. In the spirit of solidarity, best wishes to you and yours this Holiday Season.