



MICHAEL H. BOLTON, DIRECTOR



# NEWS

MAY 2019 • VOLUME 9, ISSUE 5, PAGE 1

### DISTRICT 2 CONTACT INFORMATION

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West Allis, WI 53214  
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**Northern MI Sub-District Office**  
503 North Euclid Avenue  
Suite #10 - Euclid Plaza  
Bay City, MI 48706  
(989) 667-0660

**Southern MI Sub-District Office**  
20600 Eureka Road, Suite 300  
Taylor, MI 48180  
(734) 285-0367

### USW District 2 Council Steering Committee

The District 2 Council By-Laws established a District 2 Council Steering Committee comprised of a rank and file structure. It was set up to assist in the following:

- Development of agenda for Council Conference.
- Planning of the District Council Conference Educational Conferences.
- District 2 strategic planning.
- Determining and assessing educational needs within the District.
- Generating and leading activism and other purposes consistent with the mission and directives of District 2 and the USW.

The elected members of the Steering Committee are listed below by manufacturing sector. If you need to contact a Steering Committee Member, please do so by using the email provided below.

Name	LUF#	Sector	Email Address
Ron Fancal	1299	Steel and Related	rfancal@yahoo.com
Don Carlson	59	Paper	doncarlson@ia.net
Robert Desmond	13702	Amalgamated	rdesmond@aol.com
Jesse Edwards	2-232	Automotive Related	Jesse_edwards21010@yahoo.com
Kent Holmg	12075	Chemical & Energy Related	kentholmg@tgnmail.com
Jackie Ankam	9899	Health Care	jackieankam_usw@a899@yahoo.com
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Dave Page	1327	AI Large	dpage084@yahoo.com
Matthew Gibbons	5965	AI Large	usw5965@gmail.com
Jim Watt	2-145	Allied Industrial	whitjim@yahoo.com

## "You Really are the Backbone of Our Legislative Efforts"

### A Message from Michael Bolton



**Editor's Note:** After many requests for copies of Director Bolton's address to the delegates on Tuesday, April 9, 2019, at the District 2 Wisconsin & Michigan Legislative Conference, we have reprinted it below:

Prior to the passage of the National Labor Relations Act of 1938, there were no laws in the books requiring companies to recognize a Union or to bargain in good faith with their workers. If an employer refused to deal fairly with its employees' Union, the workers were forced to engage in actions like recognition strikes.

Perhaps the most famous of these strikes is the Flint Sit Down Strike of December 1936 where workers literally took over the Fisher Body plants in Atlanta, Kansas City, Cleveland and Flint in an effort to force G.M. to recognize the UAW. This tactic worked and inspired other similar actions to take place in the rubber, steel and paper industries.

Because of the problems that arose from the sit down actions and other recognition strikes, the Labor Movement recognized the need for strong laws to force employers to deal fairly with their employees and the workers' Union. So, the labor movement began lobbying Congress to establish laws to create the right to join a Union and to engage in collective bargaining. With the country struggling to overcome the Great Depression, the Union's economic message caught on and the Roosevelt Administration, in addition to members of Congress, got behind us.

Our message at the time is the same message we are trying to get Congress to listen to today. If employees are allowed to negotiate fair wages, they will spend that money buying goods and services. Those purchases will increase the demand for products and lead to job creation.

As a result of the case we made during our lobbying efforts back then, politicians at the time began to speak freely about the labor movement, with the President and his cabinet encouraging workers to join a Union to improve their lives. Working together, the Labor Movement was able

to secure the laws needed to build our Union and succeeded at creating a working class that was the envy of workers around the world.

We've been lobbying ever since.

One question I get asked the most by Steelworker members is: "Why is our Union so active in politics and legislation? My answer is always, "Because we don't have a choice." Every right we, as workers, have was given to us through the legislative process by politicians who supported our movement. From the right to join a Union, to bargaining with employers, to representing members in grievances and providing Steelworkers a safe place to work, they all come from legislation that we fought for.

Unfortunately, as we have seen over the past 10 years, those rights can be taken away by unfriendly politicians.

If you look at all the issues our Union has ever lobbied for or against, our Union's success has been brought about not by our lobbyists in Washington or by our International President or District Directors. The key to every election or legislative victory we claim is our membership. It's you!

When I go into a politician's office and discuss our issues with our representatives, they are courteous, but they see me as a representative for the Union. On the other hand, when I have YOU behind me, I have the muscle needed to force them to listen.

Think about it. I do not live in their district, which means I do not vote in their district, but you do. And, that makes the difference.

In a lot of ways there is no more important work in our Union than our members serving as a Citizen Lobbyist. So, how do you help out as a Citizen Lobbyist?

The first, and probably most effective way, is to become an active member of your Local Union's Rapid Response Team where you will be assigned a number of members that you will communicate Steelworker issues to.

As we get ready for our 2019 District 2 Lobby Days, which today's conference is a part of, I want to remind you of the important role you play in our legislative mission. You really are the backbone of

— Continued on Page 2 —

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**AFL-CIO-CLC**

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**JUNE 21, 2019**, is the deadline for submissions for the next issue.

## "GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

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**USW**  
DISTRICT 2

**NEWS** United Steelworkers District 2  
AFL-CIO-CLC

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HAVE YOU BEEN TO DISTRICT 2'S PAGE ON FACEBOOK?  
[www.facebook.com/USWDistrict2](http://www.facebook.com/USWDistrict2)



## A Message from Director Bolton - continued from page 1



our efforts. So, when you go to visit your representatives, remember, you are representing your brothers and sisters back home in your Local Union.

One of the biggest goals of the early Labor Movement was the establishment of the "Eight Hour Day." With the motto, "Eight hours work, eight hours leisure and eight hours sleep", workers in the Knights of Labor Union began lobbying for an eight-hour workday in 1886.

They began their efforts on the federal level, but couldn't get Washington politicians to act. So they changed their focus to the state level and started gaining victories. As more states started to pass eight-hour day legislation, activists, again, turned their efforts to the federal level. Finally, their efforts came to fruition with the passage of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. This should be a lesson for us as we look to overturn some of the anti-Labor stuff that has been passed over the past ten years.

Our first goal should be stopping the attacks, which we can do with labor-friendly governors in Wisconsin and Michigan.

At the same time, we have to be working to elect labor-friendly candidates to the legislature in Washington, Madison, and Lansing; while also building support for a working class friendly President.

As we make progress in electing the right people, we need to be pushing a working class agenda which clearly demonstrates for our less active members that there really is a difference between Democrats and Republicans. Our issues are:

- Bargaining rights
- Workplace safety
- Family supportive wages
- Retirement benefits
- Quality education
- Affordable healthcare for every worker

Additionally, as part of our effort here in District 2, I suggest we work together to start educating every member about our issues and why they are important to them and their families. Then, once we have our members understanding what our issues are and why they are our issues, they will vote against any politician, regardless of party, who opposes our issues.

Every generation of American Union activists has had its challenges that defined who they were:

- The Homestead Steel Strike, where our brothers and sisters of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers saw Unionists killed by company goons and state militia.
- The Flint Sit Down Strikers who went days locked in their workshops without food, heat, or other necessities.
- The thousands of workers in the 1980's who were locked out of their jobs by employers who were inspired by the anti-Union antics of Ronald Reagan.
- And, now us, facing right wing legislative attacks to weaken our movement in the post Citizens United era.

— Continued on Page 4 —



## 2019 District 2 Calendar of Events

### JANUARY

- 16 **WOS Lobby Day (WI)**  
*Capitol Building, Room 300 SE, 2 East Main Street • Madison, WI*
- 18-21 **2019 AFL-CIO Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Civil and Human Rights Conference**  
*Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Ave Northwest • Washington, DC*
- 22 **WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*USW Local 2-21 Hall, 1201 Sheridan Road • Escanaba, MI*

### FEBRUARY

- 11 **LM Review Session**  
*USW Local 12075 Hall, 3510 James Savage Road • Midland, MI*
- 12 **LM Review Session**  
*Bungalow Inn, 1100 28th Street • Manistee, MI*
- 13 **LM Review Session**  
*Teamsters Local 7 Hall, 3330 Miller Road • Kalamazoo, MI*
- 14 **LM Review Session**  
*USW District 2 Southern MI Sub-Office, 20600 Eureka Road, Suite 300 • Taylor, MI*
- 22 **WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*American Legion Hall, 327 W. Wisconsin Avenue • Tomahawk, WI*
- 25 **LM Review Session**  
*USW Local 2-21 Hall, 1201 Sheridan Road • Escanaba, MI*
- 26 **LM Review Session**  
*Kronenwetter Village Hall, 1582 Kronenwetter Drive • Kronenwetter, WI*
- 27 **LM Review Session**  
*Lucky Dog's Labor Temple, 157 S. Green Bay Road • Neenah, WI*
- 28 **LM Review Session**  
*Milwaukee Labor Council Building, 633 S. Hawley Road • Milwaukee, WI*

### MARCH

- 13 **WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*USW Local 2-148 Hall, 1201 Gillingham Road • Neenah, WI*
- 20 **WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*USW Local 12075 Hall, 3510 James Savage Road • Midland, MI*
- 22 **WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*USW Dist. 2 Southern MI Sub-Office, 20600 Eureka Road, Suite 300 • Taylor, MI*
- 22 **WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*Milwaukee Labor Council Building, 633 S. Hawley Road • Milwaukee, WI*
- 26 **WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*Kent Ionia Labor Hall, 918 Benjamin Avenue NE • Grand Rapids, MI*
- 27 **WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*Old Morton Federal Credit Union, 516 Kosciusko • Manistee, MI*

### APRIL

- 9-10 **USW District 2 Legislative Conference**  
*Blue Chip Casino, Hotel and Spa, 777 Blue Chip Drive • Michigan City, IN*
- 15 **Presidents Meeting**  
*Ronn Hall, 1206 Baldwin Avenue • Negaunee, MI*
- 16 **Presidents Meeting**  
*Fraternal Order of Eagles, 1104 S. Oak Avenue • Marshfield, WI*
- 17 **Presidents Meeting**  
*Lucky Dog's Labor Temple, 157 S. Green Bay Road • Neenah, WI*
- 18 **Presidents Meeting**  
*Milwaukee Labor Council Building, 633 S. Hawley Road • Milwaukee, WI*
- 26 **WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*Old Morton Federal Credit Union, 516 Kosciusko • Manistee, MI*

### MAY

- 1 **USW District 2 Lobby Day (Wisconsin)**  
*Capitol Building (North Wing), 2 East Main Street • Madison, WI*
- 5-10 **USW District 2 WOS Leadership Development Course Levels I and II**  
*Landmark Resort, 4929 Landmark Drive • Egg Harbor, WI*
- 14 **Sub-District Local Union Leadership Training (NMI)**  
*Holiday Inn, 810 Cinema Drive • Midland, MI, and  
 USW Local 12075 Hall, 3510 James Savage Drive • Midland, MI*
- 16 **Sub-District Local Union Leadership Training (SMI)**  
*Village Conference Center • 1645 Commerce Park Drive, Chelsea, MI*
- 21 **USW District 2 Lobby Day (Michigan)**

### MAY continued

- 21 **Sub-District Local Union Leadership Training (NWI)**  
*Red Lion Hotel Paper Valley • 333 West College Avenue, Appleton, WI*
- 23 **Sub-District Local Union Leadership Training (SWI)**  
*Four Points by Sheraton - Milwaukee Airport • 5311 South Howell Avenue, Milwaukee, WI*

### JUNE

- 7 **WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*Joann Lester Library, 100 Park Street • Nekoosa, WI*
- 11 **WOS Quarterly Meeting (Central Michigan Area)**  
*Michigan State AFL-CIO Office, 419 South Washington Square, Suite 200 • Lansing, MI*
- 11 **Presidents Meeting**  
*Teamsters Local 7 Hall, 3330 Miller Road • Kalamazoo, MI*
- 12 **Presidents Meeting**  
*USW Local 12075 Hall, 3510 James Savage Road • Midland, MI*
- 12 **WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*USW Local 2-148 Hall, 1201 Gillingham Road • Neenah, WI*
- 13 **Presidents Meeting**  
*USW District 2 Southern MI Sub-Office, 20600 Eureka Road, Suite 300 • Taylor, MI*
- 18 **WOS Quarterly Meeting (Southern Michigan Area)**  
*Michigan State AFL-CIO Office, 419 South Washington Square, Suite 200 • Lansing, MI*
- 21 **WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*Kent Ionia Labor Hall, 918 Benjamin Avenue NE • Grand Rapids, MI*

### JULY

- 8-9 **Financial Officers Training (Wisconsin)**  
*Red Lion Hotel Paper Valley, 333 West College Avenue • Appleton, WI*
- 11-12 **Financial Officers Training (Michigan)**  
*Great Hall Banquet & Convention Center, 5121 Bay City Road • Midland, MI*
- 12 **WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*Milwaukee Labor Council Building, 633 S. Hawley Road • Milwaukee, WI*
- 21-25 **USW International Civil and Human Rights Conference**  
*Hilton Minneapolis, 1001 Marquette Avenue • Minneapolis, MN*

### AUGUST

- 20 **WOS Quarterly Meeting**  
*Upper Michigan Community Credit Union, 204 M-28 East • Munising, MI*

### SEPTEMBER

- 9-13 **USW International Safety and Health Conference**  
*Westin Convention Center, 1000 Penn Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA*

### OCTOBER

- 8 **Presidents Meeting**  
*Ronn Hall, 1206 Baldwin Avenue • Negaunee, MI*
- 9 **Presidents Meeting**  
*Fraternal Order of Eagles, 1104 S. Oak Avenue • Marshfield, WI*
- 10 **Presidents Meeting**  
*Lucky Dog's Labor Temple, 157 S. Green Bay Road • Neenah, WI*
- 11 **Presidents Meeting**  
*Milwaukee Labor Council Building, 633 S. Hawley Road • Milwaukee, WI*
- 15 **Presidents Meeting**  
*Teamsters Local 7 Hall, 3330 Miller Road • Kalamazoo, MI*
- 16 **Presidents Meeting**  
*USW Local 12075 Hall, 3510 James Savage Road • Midland, MI*
- 17 **Presidents Meeting**  
*USW District 2 Southern MI Sub-Office, 20600 Eureka Road, Suite 300 • Taylor, MI*
- 28-30 **USW International Rapid Response Conference**  
*Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Avenue NW • Washington, D.C.*

### NOVEMBER

- 4-8 **Sub-District Local Union Leadership Training (Wisconsin)**  
*TBD • Appleton & Milwaukee, WI*
- 18-22 **USW International Next Generation Conference**  
*TBD • Pittsburgh, PA*

### DECEMBER

- 2-6 **Sub-District Local Union Leadership Training (Michigan)**  
*TBD • Midland & Chelsea, MI*

This schedule is designed to assist in planning this year's events. However, there is a possibility dates and/or locations could change due to unforeseen circumstances. Changes and corrections will be made ASAP and updated on the USW D2 Website.

## A Message from Director Bolton - continued from page 2

Each generation has had to fight to keep our movement alive and thriving; and lobbying played a key role in the struggles.

In closing, I would like to thank you for joining us today. I would also like to encourage you to go home and work with your Local Union to build an active army of citizen lobbyists who understand our issues and are committed to working with us to restore our working class in the United States.

Thanks for what you do and for what you will do in the future.

"Dreams save us. Dreams lift us up and transform us. I swear until my dream of a world where dignity, honor and justice becomes the reality we all share – I will never stop fighting." (*Superman Action Comics #775*)

**Go build the Union!**

## Alliance for Retired Americans • Retiree News - By Jay McMurrin, 1st VP., MI. ARA & D2 SOAR Exec. Board Member



In last month's newsletter, we talked about the hardship older workers faced prior to the creation of Social Security. Because wages were low, and only 16% of U.S. employers offered pension plans to workers, retirement options for seniors were limited. In fact, most American workers ended up relying upon their children in old age.

To make matters worse, the country was in the middle of the Great Depression. With unemployment in double digits across the country, seniors weren't the only ones struggling to find work. And, keep in mind that in 1930's America other social safety nets for workers like unemployment benefits and workers compensation did not exist. Workers everywhere were desperate to feed their families.

With that in mind, we can see that the Roosevelt Administration was motivated by two needs as they initiated the debate that led to the passage of Social Security. The first was to provide seniors a degree of dignity in old age by creating some form of financial security.

The second was to put money in the pockets of people who would actually spend it to create new demand for products which in turn would create new demand for jobs. Seniors could be counted on to do this. To accomplish these goals, Roosevelt and his Labor Secretary, Frances Perkins, huddled to come up with a plan they could sell Congress and the American people. Because the country was in the grips of a severe economic downturn, opponents of Social Security were in the minority. However, they were passionate and vocal. They painted Roosevelt's program as socialism and a government handout.

There was also another unique hurdle the FDR Administration had to clear to pass Social Security. It was competing against plans offered by other members of Congress. At the time a movement had sprung up across the country to provide Americans a piece of the wealth their labor created. For example, Senator Huey Long, a Democrat from Georgia, was pushing a radical populist agenda. A major part of his platform was the "Share Our Wealth" plank. It called for the federal government to guarantee every family in the country would receive an annual income of \$5,000 so they could afford the necessities of life, which included a home, a job, a radio and a car. He also called for limiting private fortunes to \$50 million and annual incomes to \$1 million. It also promised to provide everyone over the age of 60 an old age pension. His slogan for the program was, "Every Man a King."

The "Share Our Wealth" program became a movement. Share our Wealth Clubs were formed in every state; and by 1935, there were over 27,000 local clubs boasting over 7.7 million members across the country.

Then there was the competing "Townsend Movement", which was started by Francis Townsend, a Long Beach, CA, doctor, who, at the age of 66, found himself unemployed with nothing in the bank and no hope for the future. Faced with despair, he became a champion of the elderly and devised a plan called the Townsend Old Age Revolving Pension Plan, or the Townsend Plan.

The gist of the plan included the government paying each citizen over 60 years of age a monthly pension of \$200. The pensions would be funded by a 2% national sales tax. There were three requirements for eligibility.

1. The person had to be retired.
2. "Their past life must have been free from Criminal Habit."
3. The money had to be spent within the United States by the pensioner within 30 days of receipt.

Dr. Townsend published his plan in a Long Beach Newspaper in 1933 and within two years there were over 7,000 Townsend Clubs with over 2.2 million people 60 and older working to pass the Townsend Plan.

As you can see, there was an appetite to pass some sort of old age income plan in America. It is likely a safe bet that trying to pass such a program during any other point in U.S. history would probably have been a heavy lift that resulted in failure. But Americans were ready and Roosevelt was prepared to lead the battle.

Next month, we'll take a look at the vote to pass Social Security and what the program looked like back then. Some of the people the original plan excluded may surprise you.

**"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"**

## Michigan Women of Steel Raise Funds for “Shades of Pink” Foundation - by Linda Lucas



The Michigan Women of Steel team led by team captain, Michelle Fanning of Local 690L, raised funds and attended “A Wild Time at the Detroit Zoo”! Women of Steel participated in this annual walk and family-fun day because our sisters support Shades of Pink Foundation's mission to provide temporary, emergency assistance to breast cancer families in need. Imagine having to choose between paying the mortgage or an electric bill or a life-saving medical treatment.

Did you know that every year about 8,000 Michigan women are diagnosed with breast cancer? More than 2,600 of those women will have problems affording necessary cancer medications and 2,400 Michigan women will lose their job this year due to time off during treatment and recovery. Every dollar raised makes a difference and stays right here in our community. All donations are tax-deductible. WOS raised \$975!



## USW D2 Offices' Summer Hours

Please note there will be modified summer hours for some District 2 offices. These new hours will begin on Monday, June 3, 2019, and will continue through Friday, August 30, 2019. Normal business hours will resume on Tuesday, September 3, 2019.

<b>Menasha, Wisconsin</b>	<b>7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Monday – Thursday)</b> <b>7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Friday)</b>
<b>West Allis, Wisconsin</b>	<b>8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Monday – Friday)</b>
<b>Taylor, Michigan</b>	<b>7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Monday – Thursday)</b> <b>7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Friday)</b>
<b>Bay City, Michigan</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Monday – Friday)</b>

Please share this information with your membership. Feel free to contact the District 2 office with any questions. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

## District 2 Wisconsin WOS Volunteers for "Walk to End Lupus Now" – by Cindy Odden



Left Picture - Top: Jordan Peterson, Bottom photo: Linda Peterson; Right Picture - Left to Right: Linda Vick, Paula Uhing, Cindy Odden, Nicole Carden

WOS volunteered for the Lupus Walk held in Milwaukee on May 11, 2019. A few of the WOS volunteers just returned from the weeklong WOS Leadership Development Course Levels 1 and 2 held in Egg Harbor. Knowing the importance of being there for the community, these sisters gave their time to come out and volunteer for a great cause.

Participants were challenged to rally friends, family, and co-workers to make the fight against lupus more powerful! WOS's participation enables the Lupus Foundation of America (LFA), Wisconsin Chapter, to raise funds for critically needed research to find better treatments and a cure. WOS joined hundreds of lupus warriors as everyone converged on beautiful Hoyt Park for "Walk to End Lupus Now".

Lupus is a systemic autoimmune disease that occurs when the body's immune system attacks its own tissues and organs.

Inflammation caused by lupus can affect many different body systems including the joints, skin, kidneys, blood cells, brain, heart and lungs. Lupus can be difficult to diagnose because its signs and symptoms often mimic those of other ailments. However, the most distinctive sign of lupus is a facial rash resembling the wings of a butterfly unfolding across both cheeks. Although this symptom occurs in many cases, it does not appear in all. Some are also born with a tendency toward developing lupus which may be triggered by infections, certain drugs or even sunlight. While there's no cure for lupus, treatments can help control symptoms.

We are proud of all the volunteers that gave their time for this great cause. Thank you!

## Financial Officer and Trustee Training Classes to be Held in July

District 2 is pleased to announce Financial Officer and Trustee Training classes will be held:

<p><b>July 8 – 9, 2019</b></p> <p><b>Red Lion Hotel Paper Valley</b> 333 West College Avenue Appleton, Wisconsin 54911</p>	<p><b>July 11 – 12, 2019</b></p> <p><b>Great Hall Banquet &amp; Convention Center</b> 5121 Bay City Road Midland, Michigan</p>
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Please be aware that these classes are a full two days in length, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending by 5:00 p.m. both days. Registration will be held at 8:00 a.m. on the first day of class.

**The Financial Officer class** will take place over a two-day period and will consist of training all financial officers on the duties and responsibilities of all officers pertaining to the finances of the Local Union, as well as the policies of the USW and the Department of Labor. Participants will go over the cashbook in detail, all federal tax forms with some detail, as well as year end forms that need to be processed. An open class discussion is welcomed with questions and scenarios that officers see in their Local.

**The Trustee class** will take place over a two-day period. The first day will consist of lecture and PowerPoint on the duties and responsibilities of all officers pertaining to Local Union finances as well as the policies of the USW and the Department of Labor. All federal tax forms as well as year-end forms that need to be processed will be reviewed. The second day will consist of a three-month mock audit. Participants will go over vouchers, bank statements, and other supporting documentation month by month with the auditor, then on their own; and will be looking for errors, and learning to reconcile. Once the numbers are confirmed for each month, participants will complete the quarterly audit report. An open class discussion is welcomed with questions and scenarios that participants see in their Local.

Notices were sent to all District 2 Local Union Presidents and Recording Secretaries on April 26. Please contact your Staff Representative if you never received your copy or if it was simply misplaced.

## Teal Lake Senior Living Community Ratifies First Contract - *USW New Media—Communication Dept.*



Left to right: USW LU 4950 President Chad Korpi, Committee Member Laura Hill, newly elected Unit Chairperson of Teal Lake LU 4950-13 Peggy Kangas and USW LU 4950 Vice President Dan Ruokolainen.

Direct Care aides, housekeepers and dietary staff members at the Teal Lake Senior Living Community in Negaunee, Michigan, ratified a first contract on April 27 after successfully voting to join the USW last year.

"The campaign was a long and stressful process because we had so many hills to climb," said Peggy Kangas, the local's unit chairperson. "During bargaining there was fear of the unknown, but it went smoothly with mutual respect all around."

The 29 new members joined amalgamated Local 4950, which also represents USW members at the Empire Mine, Eastwood Nursing Center, Bell Medical Center, Ishpeming Medical Center, Negaunee Public Schools and Malton Electric.

The Teal Lake employees approached Local 4950 for assistance in organizing. The National Labor Relations Board ordered a rerun of a failed first election that was tainted by management unfair labor practices. A second election held last May secured a union victory. The contract is one that Kangas is proud of and knows what a difference it will make for the lives of her co-workers, as well as herself. "This contract is going to give all employees a voice," she said. "It also gives us a sense of security knowing that the union is now there to help us get the fair treatment we've wanted for so long. It's like having a fresh start with the sun shining down on us!"

Staff representative Chris Haddock assisted in the organizing drive and the bargaining for a first contract. The two-year agreement includes pay raises totaling \$1.35 an hour over two years, time and a half, holiday pay, and a personal time off program, he said.

## District 2 WOS Leadership Development Course – *by Linda Lucas*

District 2 recently conducted the WOS Development Course May 5 - 10, 2019, in Egg Harbor, WI. A total of 35 participants were in attendance for Levels I and II.



Director Bolton spoke to the participants on the importance of women in leadership, running for office, donating to PAC and electing labor friendly candidates. At the graduation ceremony, the Level II sisters presented keynote speeches which they prepared prior to attending the course.

All the participating sisters had an educational and enjoyable experience. They also raised \$608.50 for HELP of Door County, which deals with prevention and intervention services to eliminate domestic abuse. We wish to thank all Locals that sent sisters to the training.

**"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"**

## USW District 2 Local Union Leadership Spring Training

District 2 just completed its 2019 Spring Local Union Leadership Training. This year there was one day training held in each sub-district area. Listed below are the course(s), dates and locations.

**May 14 – Midland, MI** - Advanced Steward Training, and Union Approach to Health & Safety

**May 16 – Chelsea, MI** - FMLA Training (make-up class)

**May 21 – Appleton, WI** - Advanced Steward Training, and Union Approach to Health & Safety

**May 23 – Milwaukee, WI** - Advanced Steward Training

Participants had a choice of one of the following classes:

(1) **Advanced Steward Training**

**Class Description:** *Educated stewards are indispensable union leaders. They enforce the collective bargaining agreement and serve as a vital communication link between the membership and local union leaders and front-line supervision. This class takes a close look at the role of stewards in investigating, writing, and presenting grievances around the 'just cause' provisions of the collective bargaining agreement. It will also feature interactive discussions and role-play activities on how stewards can organize to build solidarity and power where workers need it the most on the job. Members attending this class should bring a copy of their collective bargaining agreement.*

(2) **Union Approach to Health and Safety**

**Class Description:** *This class will provide tools to help local unions create safer, healthier workplaces; involve members in the union's health and safety activities, develop creative strategies to get tough problems addressed and build local union strength.*

(3) **Family Medical Leave Training** [This was a rescheduled make-up class that was cancelled in the 2018 Fall Training]

*The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) turns 26 years old this summer. Since it was signed into law, this legislation has become a key tool for working people to use when life takes unexpected turns. This workshop includes a thorough overview of FMLA provisions, particularly how they interact with collective bargaining agreements. Members who attend this program should bring a copy of their collective bargaining agreement.*

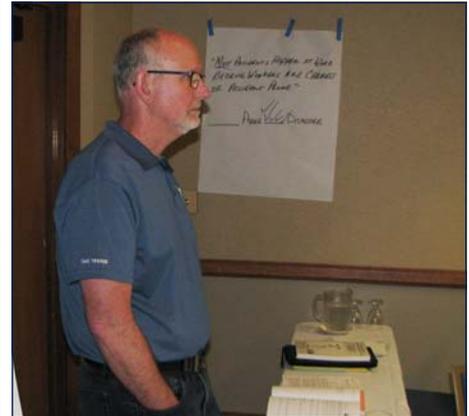
Due to low attendance in each sub-area, the planned and scheduled class: "To Unite All: Building a Stronger Union" was cancelled and those who did register by the deadline date contained in the call letter were offered another class.

## USW District 2 Local Union Leadership Spring Training Pictures



— Continued on Page 9 —

## USW District 2 Local Union Leadership Spring Training Pictures - continued from page 8



**"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"**

**This Month in History: May 21, 1931 • Amelia Earhart - The History Channel**



May 21, 1932 Amelia Earhart becomes the first woman to make solo, nonstop transatlantic flight. Five years to the day that American aviator Charles Lindbergh became the first pilot to accomplish a solo, nonstop flight across the Atlantic Ocean, female aviator Amelia Earhart becomes the first pilot to repeat the feat, landing her plane in Ireland after flying across the North Atlantic. Earhart traveled over 2,000 miles from Newfoundland in just under 15 hours.

Unlike Charles Lindbergh, Earhart was well known to the public before her solo transatlantic flight. In 1928, as a member of a three-person crew, she had become the first woman to cross the Atlantic in an aircraft.

Although her only function during the crossing was to keep the plane's log, the event won her national fame, and Americans were enamored with the daring and modest young pilot. For her solo transatlantic crossing in 1932, she was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross by the U.S. Congress.

In 1935, in the first flight of its kind, she flew solo from Wheeler Field in Honolulu, Hawaii, to Oakland, California, winning a \$10,000 award posted by Hawaiian commercial interests. Two years later, she attempted, along with copilot Frederick J. Noonan, to fly around the world, but her plane disappeared near Howland Island in the South Pacific on July 2, 1937. The U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Itasca* picked up radio messages that she was lost and low in fuel—the last the world ever heard from Amelia Earhart.



**This Month in Labor History: May 30, 2019 • Memorial Day Massacre**

On May 26, 1937, Cleveland steelworkers went on strike when minor steel companies refused to follow the US Steel Corporation in adopting union demands of recognition, eight-hour workdays, and better pay. The work stoppage in Cleveland led to calls for strikes by two major unions—the Steel Workers Organizing Committee (SWOC) and the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO)—which took place in many cities across the country.

On May 30, the Memorial Day holiday, approximately 1,500 striking steelworkers and allies in Chicago assembled at the SWOC headquarters. They planned to march to the nonunionized Republic Steel mill nearby in protest.

At the gates of the mill, the unarmed, peaceful crowd—which included women and children—was met by 250 armed Chicago policemen, who were provisioned and paid for by Republic Steel. Without provocation, the assembled policemen fired over 100 shots at the crowd, killing 10 and wounding more than 100. Most were shot in the back.



Photo credit: US National Archives and Records Administration

Not one officer was indicted for the shooting. Centered in Cleveland, the strike was gradually defeated, with Chicago being the only violent incident during the entire work stoppage. However, the massacre of Chicago workers and the strike brought national attention to the plight of the steelworkers. Five years later, they won union recognition and the fulfillment of their demands.

## USW District 2 Hosts Lobby Days in Madison and Lansing – by Sue Browne, Rapid Response Coordinator

### USW District 2 Members Advocate for Worker Friendly Policy in Michigan and Wisconsin

**WISCONSIN:** On May 1<sup>st</sup>, USW members from across Wisconsin joined together at the Madison state capitol to advocate for SB-196. This legislation would create an interest-free loan program that would support the conversion of equipment to manufacture more in-demand paper products and the update of equipment for energy efficiency purposes. These loans would be forward-looking and would allow current mills and plants to remain open as the market changes.

Participants also advocated support for Governor Evers' People's Budget (AB-56 & SB-59). Every two years the Wisconsin Governor must propose – and the Legislature must pass – a budget for the State of Wisconsin. This year, Governor Tony Evers put forth the "People's Budget," for the period beginning July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2021, which includes rolling back many harmful policies created over the last eight years. This budget is now before the Legislature, which has started an intense debate over Governor Evers' budgetary proposals. The People's Budget will affect our families, our public schools, our roads, our healthcare, and our rights at work by lifting up working families in many ways and moving Wisconsin forward to create better jobs and a stronger middle class.



Elected officials were also called upon to support legislation prioritizing the purchasing of goods made in Wisconsin and the contracting for services provided by Wisconsin labor.

**MICHIGAN:** On May 21<sup>st</sup>, USW members from across Michigan gathered at the Lansing state capitol to advocate for HR 56 which urges Congress to take critical action to protect multiemployer pensions and secure the retirement of more than a million hardworking men and women. Some of the nation's largest multiemployer pension plans are on the verge of collapse because they do not have enough money to pay promised pensions to retirees and workers. Bad trade policy resulting in facility closures, a massive loss of assets due to the Great Recession, industrial structural changes, and federal deregulation have created a perfect storm, pushing some multiemployer plans into decline. Over a million current and future retirees could lose their retirement income. Ultimately, the magnitude of the problem is putting the future solvency of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's program for multiemployer plans in jeopardy. HR-56 urges the U.S. Congress to consider legislation like the Butch Lewis Act to help stabilize distressed multiemployer pension systems.

Participants called upon elected officials to support HB-4227, which will make Michigan's mining industry stronger and more sustainable by creating the Committee on Michigan's Mining Future. The committee will develop a sound, long-term mining policy in the state as it is necessary to ensure a safe, sustainable, competitive and environmentally friendly future for mining in Michigan.



They also advocated in support of SB-303, which addresses workplace safety. Health care workers suffer more workplace injuries than any other profession, with about 654,000 people harmed per year on the job. This violence poses a wide threat to nurses, physicians, healthcare staff, patients, and visitors. It also drives up costs and undermines both the quality of care and patient outcomes. Ultimately, it affects us all.

Note: **You and your employer are not the only ones at the bargaining table.** Legislation and government decisions continue to affect all of us at the bargaining table. Building a strong Rapid Response team at your local will keep you and your members informed and will help give us a loud collective voice around issues affecting working families. To receive more information, or to schedule a Rapid Response Training at your local, please contact Sue Browne at [sbrowne@usw.org](mailto:sbrowne@usw.org).

## Wisconsin Steelworkers Join Together for Memorial Day Parade - by Cindy Odden

The WOS along with additional members from Steelworker Locals joined together to march in the Memorial Day Parade in Burlington, WI, on Memorial Day.

On the Sunday prior to the parade, the WOS met at Linda Peterson's business building to make signs. They also collected candy to be handed out throughout the parade with their locals.

Then, on the day of the parade, everyone met at Linda's business building once again because the free parking ramp is located next to her place. Linda's son, Jordon, graciously drove everyone to the USW's spot in the parade. Even more convenient, is that Linda's place is located at the end of the parade route so everyone was close to their cars when done marching.

Women of Steel also volunteered to bring wagons for the additional candy used to refill the pink buckets sisters were using to hand out the treats to the parade viewers.



The parade ended with a ceremony honoring our Veterans. After which, everyone congregated back at Linda's place for water and snacks in addition to taking the opportunity to meet and visit with each other.

It was a wonderful day of Solidarity with Union members and their families. Everyone did a fantastic job! Proud to be Union!

The WOS committee is currently working on their next project, which is collecting monies to be given to the Stars and Stripes Honor Flight in Southern Wisconsin on July 12 during the Milwaukee area WOS quarterly meeting.

## Not So Funny Political Cartoons



**"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"**

## USW Free College Benefit for Union Members!

# HIGHER EDUCATION IN JUST 4 STEPS



### 1 APPLY TO EASTERN GATEWAY

Go to [unionplusfreecollege.org](http://unionplusfreecollege.org), select the "Get Started" button and complete the request information form with your contact and union information (for membership verification).

### 2 COMPLETE THE FREE FAFSA

Complete the form online: [FAFSA.ed.gov](http://FAFSA.ed.gov)  
Eastern Gateway Community College school code: **007275** The FAFSA application is a requirement. If it's determined that you are not eligible for federal grants, a "last-dollar" scholarship will be applied to your remaining balance for tuition, fees and e-books.

Your FAFSA may be chosen for additional verification by the Dept. of Education. Your enrollment advisor can help you with the process as compliance is required.

### 3 SUBMIT PROOF OF GRADUATION OR GED COMPLETION

Acceptable proof includes official or unofficial High School/GED transcripts, or a copy of your diploma or official college transcript showing Associate Degree or higher. Send to:

**Email:** [transcripts@egcc.edu](mailto:transcripts@egcc.edu) (Subject: Union Plus)

**Mail:** EGCC Admissions  
Attn: UnionPlus  
101 Federal Plaza East  
Youngstown, OH 44503

**Fax:** 330-480-0817 (Attn: Union Plus)

If you have completed any college coursework, have the transcript sent to EGCC. Applicable college credits will be transferred to the new program.

### 4 ENROLL IN CLASSES

Work with an enrollment advisor to register for classes.

**1-888-590-9009**  
[unionplusfreecollege.org](http://unionplusfreecollege.org)



*The Free College benefit covers the cost of tuition, fees and books after any PELL or other federal grant, or employer reimbursement is applied. The remaining amount will be cleared with the Free College scholarship. As long as your financial aid file is complete, there is no cost to the student and students are never asked to take out any loans.*

**"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"**