

USW@Work

A Regular Publication of the United Steelworkers

Volume 13/3

A Powerful Voice for Workers

STEELWORKERS "GO ON THE OFFENSIVE!"

In May, 21 SOAR members, representing every USW District in the United States, joined more than 650 USW activists in Washington, D.C., for our union's annual Rapid Response and Legislative Conference.

Rapid Response is the Steelworkers' nonpartisan grassroots education, communication, and action program that provides the necessary structure to inform every USW member about pending legislation concerning labor and work-related issues.

This two-day conference served to educate attendees on state and federal policies impacting the countless industries in which our members work. The conference concluded with a rally and lobbying visit on Capitol Hill, to advocate for worker-friendly reforms, the protection and expansion of Retiree Security, and for much-needed improvements to our U.S. trade policies.

In recent decades, much of state and federal labor policy has been defensive, in nature. As corporate attacks and economic pressures increased, our union fought alongside the labor movement to guard workers' hard-won gains.

With urgency, USW International President Leo W. Gerard stated, "For too many years we've been fighting from behind, on the defensive. The time has come to go on the offensive and fight to really change things!"

In particular, we learned about two bills that, if enacted, would result in overturning the entire, broken system of U.S. labor law. The Workplace Democracy Act, S. 2810/H.R. 5728, would shift labor law back toward actually

helping workers gain power and organize, instead of completely favoring corporations. Especially in today's atmosphere of upsurge and growing struggles, the passage of S.2810 would revolutionize the American workplace in a way not seen since the historic Wagner Act (1935) led to massive organizing by unions throughout the 1930s-40s.

In addition, S.2143/H.R.3514, the WAGE Act, would amend the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) to give the NLRB authority to impose real monetary penalties on employers that knowingly violate the labor law; like those found in other federal laws (e.g., FLSA, OSHA, and EEOC.)

We also learned that protecting Retiree Security will continue to be a focus of our union's efforts. The Retiree Security issue is one that is central to uniting working folks and retirees. In January, the Steelworker's Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR) teamed up with USW Rapid Response to rollout a postcard campaign as a retirement security initiative.

"When we (SOAR) showed up at union halls, retiree and community centers, churches, etc., with our postcards about retirement security, calling upon politicians to protect, not cut, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and pension guarantees, everyone lined up to sign," Scott Marshall, District 7 SOAR Executive Board Member, told the Conference. "No one asked if we were Democrats or Republicans. When they saw we were fighting for retiree security, they were all with us."

The USW urges lawmakers to secure and strengthen Social Security to the benefit of current and future retirees. Specifically, we urge lawmakers to reject efforts to privatize the system, reduce field offices, eliminate the Social Security Disability Insurance program, raise the retirement age, means test benefits, or otherwise undermine benefits.

The union strongly supports retiree security bill S.427/H.R. 1114, the Social

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How Good is Our Health Care?



BILL PIENTA
SOAR President

If you are like me, you judge the quality of your health care by the outcome of your most recent experience with your health care provider.

But, there are other and better ways to judge our health care. One way would be by comparing similar standards and results with other countries. The

Commonwealth Fund, a private foundation that supports independent research on health care issues, reports on the quality, cost and effectiveness and ranks 11 developed nations' health care systems. Based on their most recent report, the United States comes in last out of the 11 developed nations surveyed. It should be noted that the U.S. is the only country out of the 11 that does not have national health care.

In comparison with our closest neighbor Canada, we spend much more of our GDP on health care than they do. (In 2016 the U.S. spent 17.9 percent, while Canada spent 11.4 percent). While Canada was ranked higher than the

U.S., it was ranked only 8th in the report. It is clear to me that while both countries are looking into changing their health care industry, Canada should not look at the U.S. as an example and both countries need to make significant changes in their respective industry.

Why this is important to SOAR members in the U.S. and Canada is that some people believe the Canadian health care system should more resemble the U.S. model; however, this report clearly shows that would be wrong. For those in the U.S. who believe that for-profit health care is the best system, those people are also wrong. Higher costs do not provide better care. If history is any indicator, the first option to control cost is typically to reduce benefits, and seniors should not accept reduced benefits when we simply need to look at other methods being performed in other countries.

Sources:

www.commonwealthfund.org

<https://interactives.commonwealthfund.org/2017/july/mirror-mirror/>

Can't Fight 'Em on Your Own. Stick with the Union!



JULIE STEIN
SOAR Director

In May 2018, the United States Supreme Court voted to allow employers to demand their employees waive the right to band together and participate in class action lawsuits against a wealthy and well-lawyered employer who has mistreated workers.

As we indicated in our May/June *SOAR Connection* publication (online at usw.org/soar), this ruling made one thing very clear: "If you work for an employer who has underpaid, harassed, discriminated against you, or refused to pay you the wages you've earned—unless you're in a union, you are on your own."

Soon after, in mid-June, the Court delivered another devastating blow to workers in a 5-4 ruling in the Janus v. AFSCME case, which could significantly curtail the rights of teachers, firefighters, and police because it will allow public sector union members to opt out of paying the portion of their dues not directly associated with bargaining.

With fewer resources, the labor movement will have to develop new ways to maintain the rights of our members

at work, while protecting the pensions and health care our retirees have earned. However, we should not be discouraged.

A number of states are acting quickly in the wake of the Janus decision. Worker-friendly legislators in New York, Connecticut, New Jersey and elsewhere have signed Executive Orders, and are moving legislation forward to protect public employees from harassment and intimidation by anti-union groups who are working to encourage union members to opt out of paying dues.

As SOAR members, we know that much of the security we have as retirees derives from the fact that we stuck with the union. Following these devastating Supreme Court rulings, perhaps the best thing we can do is to encourage our children and grandchildren, who are union members, to show strong support for their union. As the old saying goes, "Say something positive about your union every day."

Band with us, as we continue the fight to protect and enhance the quality of life of our retirees and working families. We Are Stronger Together!

“Show Me” SOLIDARITY

How SOAR members are fighting to preserve union rights in the “Show Me” state.

Big business thought they won the fight to make Missouri the next so-called “Right-to-Work” state when Senate Bill 19 was signed into law by former Governor Eric Greitens who was forced to resign in June after being indicted and arrested for a number of federal offenses.



From left to right: Richard Craighead, Chapter 34-3; David Meinell, Alliance for Retired Americans; Bill Finkle, Chapter 34-3 Treasurer.

Needless to say, things don't always go as planned.

Missouri's “Right-to-Work” law was slated to take effect on August 28, 2017, and would have allowed workers who were covered by a union contract to opt out of paying dues to a union. In the labor movement, this practice is typically referred to as “freeloading.”

Delbert “Griz” Phillips, Chapter 11-6 President and Tim Schleinger, Chapter 11-6 Treasurer.



However, the labor movement assembled a massive campaign that gathered more than 310,000 signatures, making it possible for voters to stop this controversial law when they vote “NO” on “Proposition A” in the pivotal August 7 primary elections.

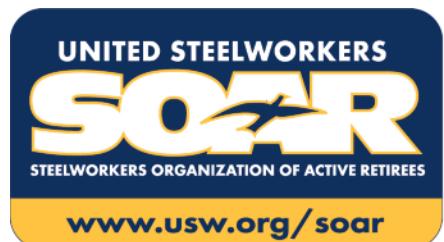
The Proposition A initiative was originally supposed to appear on the November 6 general election ballot. However, Missouri Republicans wanted to avoid turning out labor voters in the crucial November elections; so, they passed legislation that would move the vote to the August 7 primary.

Bill Finkle, Legislative Chair for SOAR Chapter 34-3 in Kansas City, recently told us about how he and other USW retirees have been involved in every aspect of this campaign, including collecting petitions, gathering ‘Vote NO’ pledge cards, distributing yard signs, and door-to-door canvassing. Bill even plans to distribute ‘Vote NO’ signs to polling locations on Election Day.

Bill also gave high praise to the leadership of USW District 11 Director, Emil Ramirez, and to SOAR activists like Pammela Wright in West Plains,

Janet Kirk (34-3 President) in Sugar Creek, and Delbert Phillips (11-6 President) and Tim Schleinger (11-6 Treasurer) in Scott City.

“They (anti-worker legislators) thought they were smart when they moved the vote on Prop A to August 7. They thought union voters weren't going to turn out to vote against it. We intend to prove them wrong!” Finkle said.



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Julie Stein, Editor
Alyssa Rico, Copy Editor
Eric Russell, Copy Editor
Lee Etta Hairston, Copy Editor

Address editorial material to:

Editor, *USW@Work, SOAR in Action*
United Steelworkers
60 Blvd. of the Allies
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Trailer Park Blues

For many retirees, particularly Canadian snowbirds, retirement means spending time at their trailer, either as a vacation spot or as a permanent home. They often build long-term relationships with other residents and develop a strong sense of community and safety. For most, it is an idyllic retirement.

All this changes when new owners and developers take over. Retiree trailer park residents are often forced to move or are evicted. This happens when they are least able to comply because of limited finances or health considerations.

At the Canadian SOAR conference held in Montreal in 2016, delegates adopted a motion, calling on all chapters to lobby for legislation to protect personal investments in manufactured homes.

In British Columbia this has been a long-standing concern of senior advocacy groups such as SOAR. Through the Council of Senior Citizens Organizations (COSCO), retiree groups have worked to develop a legislated solution to this problem and have met with some success, particularly at the City of Vancouver level.

New Democratic Party (NDP) Minister of Labour and former Steelworker Harry Bains was instrumental in introducing and supporting legislation that provided a solution to this problem. This legislation could serve as a template for other jurisdictions.

For over a decade, Harry has represented the citizens of Surrey-Newton and he has been an outspoken advocate for manufactured home park tenants in his community and across the province. In 2006, 2007 and again in 2008, he introduced bills that called for greater protections. Because his party was not the governing party these bills were never debated, let alone passed as legislation.

In 2008, Harry held a symposium to discuss solutions to meet the needs of manufactured home tenants whose parks were being sold for redevelopment. Harry and his colleagues wanted to ensure that tenants received fair value for their homes.

Less than a year after forming government, the New Democrats made several changes to the Manufactured Home Park Tenancy Act. The changes, which took effect



*By Doug Macpherson, SOAR Canadian National Coordinator
Kay Noonan, Vice-President of Chapter 3-14
Harry Bains, B.C. NDP Labour Minister*

June 6, 2018, include the following protections for tenants who face eviction as a result of park owners closing or converting a park:

- **A consistent 12-month notice to end tenancy:** Ensuring the effective date of a 12-month notice to end tenancy is the same for all tenancy agreements under the act;
- **Requiring landlords to pay increased compensation to tenants when a park is closed:** Compensation for tenants will now be \$20,000, an increase from the previous requirement of 12 months of pad rental costs;
- **Additional compensation if a manufactured home cannot be relocated:** Park owners will be required to compensate tenants for the assessed value of the home over \$20,000. Previously, there was no compensation if a manufactured home could not be relocated;
- **A clarification that tenants are not responsible for disposal costs:** A tenant who is unable to relocate their manufactured home when a park is closed is not responsible for disposal costs; and
- **Increasing the amount of compensation for bad-faith evictions:** Landlords who give notice of a manufactured home park closure but fail to proceed with the closure after eviction must pay tenants 12 months' pad rental, or \$5,000, whichever is greater.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

All updated guidelines, forms and information about the changes, including questions and answers can be found online:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/housing-tenancy/residential-tenancies/changes-to-tenancy-laws>

CANADA'S MOST POPULOUS PROVINCE Elects a Right-wing Populist as Premier!

By Doug Macpherson, SOAR Canadian National Coordinator

On 7 June 2018, Ontario voted to elect Doug Ford, a millionaire businessman, who deceitfully claims to stand up for the little guy against the political elites. He is the brother of Rob Ford, the infamous former Toronto mayor.

Doug Ford was elected Premier with a majority Tory (conservative) government. If we have learned anything from past Tory governments, progressives and working people should be wary. We will be in for the fight of our lives.

There is a bright side, however, in that the New Democratic Party (NDP) has formed the official opposition by doubling its seat count to 40. Of those 40 members, 50 percent are women and five are Steelworkers. In areas of the province where Steelworkers have a strong presence—Hamilton, Sudbury, Toronto and Timmins—we had almost a clean sweep.

Much of the credit for this success must go to our leader Andrea Horwath,

who ran an inspired campaign of hope and positive change—a message that resonated with voters as support grew as the campaign unfolded.

We will stand with Andrea and the NDP as they hold Doug Ford to account and protect the interests of working people, preventing cuts to

our health care and social services, but also as she presents a positive alternative to the government's slash-and-burn mentality.

To the great many SOAR members across the province who worked so hard to make Ontario better with the NDP—thank you!!



Above is a nice photo of Andrea Horwath, Ontario's Leader of the Official Opposition with newly-elected Sudbury Steelworker Jamie West with a group of Steelworker volunteers in the orange shirts.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

SOAR Conference

March 31–April 1, 2019, Vancouver

Advance notice:

This is a warning to Vancouver. Be prepared for a deluge of SOAR delegates from across Canada to storm the Westin Bayshore Hotel on March 31 and April 1, 2019!

- ▶ Delegates to the Canadian SOAR conference usually attend the first day of the Steelworkers National Policy Conference, which begins April 2.
- ▶ Each Canadian chapter is entitled to send one delegate with full voice and vote, but chapters may register additional delegates at the chapter's expense.
- ▶ Spouses are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- ▶ There will be official notification and Conference Call to all chapter presidents and secretaries in the coming months, so mark your calendars.

Looking forward to seeing you all there!



Last SOAR conference at the Westin Bayshore Hotel in 2013.

SOAR Lobby Work Goes On... and On... and **WINS RESULTS!**

SOAR members are relentless when it comes to lobbying. We lobby all levels of government, from local city councillors to members of provincial legislatures and federal parliament. It is a lot of work, but if we don't do it who will?

*By Fred Girling
British Columbia SOAR Coordinator*

We have achieved good results. (*See the article on manufactured homes on page 4.*) In Canada, we won improvements to our Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement. This would not have happened without the sustained effort over a great many years by the labour movement and retirees.

It is encouraging to see that SOAR chapters across the country engage in activities to advance the platforms adopted at our conferences. We debate and adopt resolutions and then work to implement them. I congratulate those chapters that work diligently to accomplish these goals.

Recently, SOAR Chapter 3-14 Vice-President Kay Noonan and I met with Surrey Guildford MLA Garry Begg concerning the high cost of hospital parking.

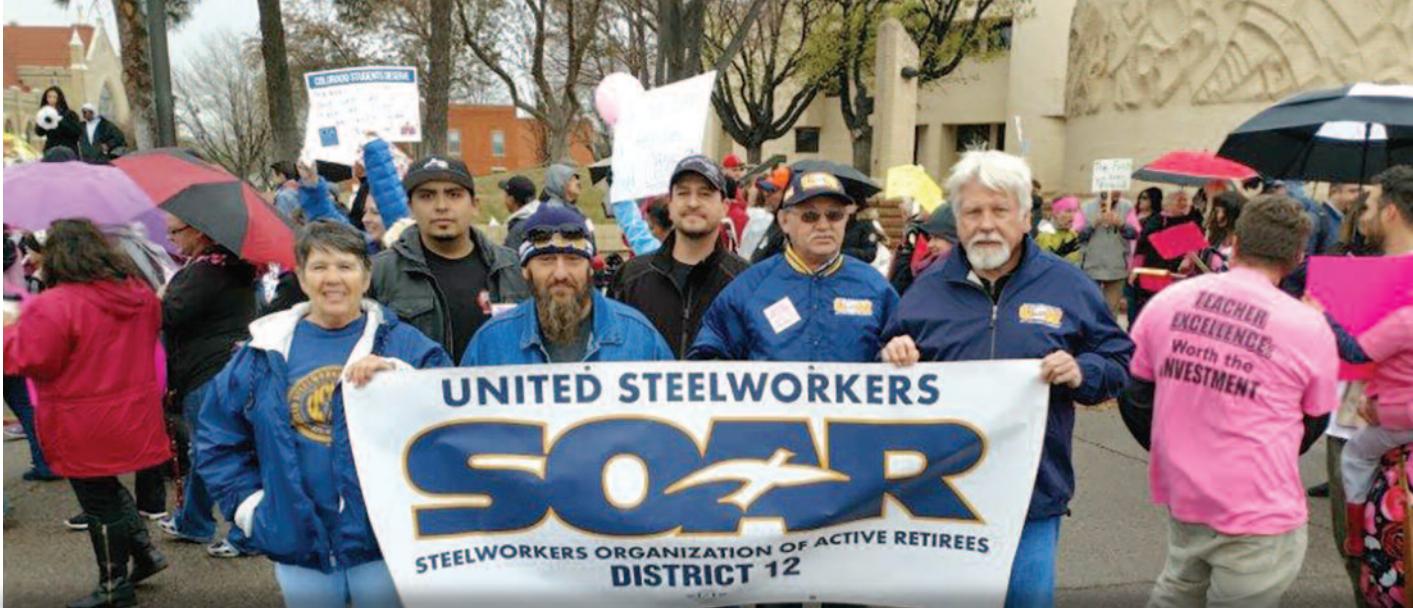
Resolution #17 adopted at the last Canadian SOAR conference called for “SOAR chapters engage with other interested groups to call on governments at all levels to implement a more humane parking charge system that provides fairness and equity to all users with a view to abolishing parking fees.”

Gary had previously expressed concern about this issue. We had a long and productive meeting and our next step is a meeting with the hospital board chair to make the following points:

- ▶ Hospital parking fees were inconsistent and caused great hardship for most seniors and low-income families.
- ▶ Meters allow for lots to double dip by not letting people add to time. They do not give change back. Some require credit cards only.
- ▶ Cities are taking away free or two-hour parking spaces from land near hospitals.
- ▶ Currently, people are not able to use parking fees as a tax deduction unless they have to use facilities away from where they live.
- ▶ While some hospitals have reduced passes for long-term patients and family members, it is still a burden.
- ▶ There should be no parking fees for emergency patients and drop-offs.
- ▶ There should be a grace period for people overextending their time, if they are not able to get back to their vehicles.
- ▶ The parking agent should not be able to keep 100 percent of the fines collected. It is an incentive for them to ticket people.

Surrey Guildford, Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Garry Begg and Fred Girling.





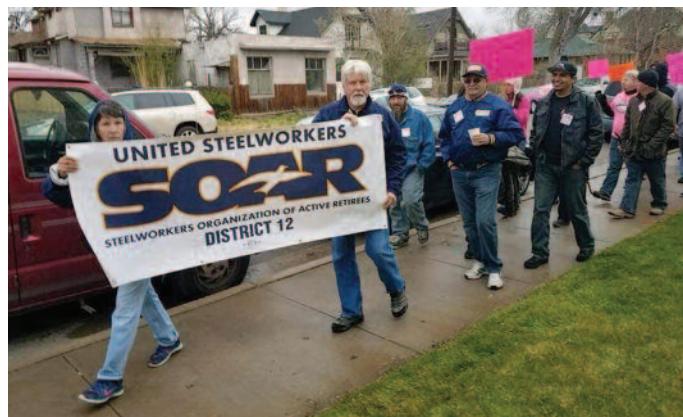
Educators and Allies Win in Pueblo

In May, with backing from the community, parents, union members and our families, more than 900 teachers, represented by the Pueblo Education Association, voted to go on strike for the first time in 25 years!

Pueblo City School District (PCSD) teachers were seeking a two percent cost-of-living increase and increased contributions to their health care to address disparate pay issues that have plagued the district for years. Even though these improvements were consistent with the recommendation of a third-party, an independent fact-finder, the school district was baulking until they saw the support that teachers were getting from the community.

"If we honestly believe our kids and grandkids deserve the best teachers, then we have to offer decent pay and benefits to make teachers want to come here," says Joel Buchanan, a retired USW member who joined fellow steelworkers supporting the striking teachers. Joel is a 43-year USW member and retiree from Evraz Rocky Mountain Steel (formerly Oregon Steel).

In 2017-2018, PCSD teachers were paid an average of \$47,617 according to the Colorado Department of Education. That comes out to 10 percent below the average teacher's pay statewide, and nearly 22 percent less than what teachers are paid nationally.



Stagnant pay has contributed to difficulties filling open teaching positions across Pueblo City School District. Teacher turnover hovers around 20 percent, and teachers like Joel's son, Kevin, who teaches at Central High School in Pueblo, have found themselves spending more of their own income each month to purchase school supplies for their students.

After two years of working without a contract, teachers at PCSD had reached their boiling point. The strike was approved by a nearly-unanimous 95 percent of teachers voting. However, support for the walkout did not end there. Steelworkers from Locals 2102 and 3267 at Evraz Rocky Mountain Steel, and SOAR activists showed up on the picket lines to support the teachers. And, the Denver Post reported that local firefighters dropped off water to striking teachers.

Although the school district had brought in substitute teachers to staff classrooms, parents refused to cross picket lines. Instead, they brought burritos to their kids' striking teachers.

After two days of picketing and holding candlelight vigils outside of the homes of Pueblo's school board members and superintendent, representatives of Pueblo City School District agreed to reconvene negotiations after they cancelled a public meeting a few days prior. Within 24 hours, the teachers were awarded their cost-of-living increases plus the increases in health care they had originally requested.

The School Board also conceded to not penalize students by adding days to the end of the school year or by docking teachers' pay for the days of the strike.

Sources:

<https://www.denverpost.com/2018/05/07/pueblo-teacher-strike/>
<http://labornotes.org/2018/05/colorado-teachers-reach-their-boiling-point-0>

Brett Kavanaugh is a Threat to the Health Care of Older Americans and **MUST BE REJECTED**

Statement of

*Robert Roach, Jr.,
President of the
Alliance for Retired
Americans*



Americans, following the current administration's announcement of the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to the United States Supreme Court:

"During his campaign, when the president vowed to only appoint U.S. Supreme Court justices who would overturn the Affordable Care Act (ACA), he issued a serious threat to the health care of all Americans. The nomination of federal appeals court judge Brett Kavanaugh to the Court has done nothing to alleviate that threat.

Judge Kavanaugh routinely rules against working families and their access to health care, and he has promoted the overturning of well-established U.S. Supreme Court precedents.

"The Supreme Court could soon hear a case that would take away coverage for millions of Americans with pre-existing conditions by stripping away popular ACA provisions aimed at protecting them. According to a report by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, more than half of all Americans have at least one pre-existing condition, including **75 percent of people ages 45 to 54 and 84 percent of people between the ages of 55 to 64.**

"The president's Supreme Court appointment will affect this country and its laws for generations. The country must protect the rights of our oldest and most vulnerable citizens. We must reject the nomination of Judge Kavanaugh."

Source:

<https://retiredamericans.org/brett-kavanaugh-threat-health-care-older-americans-must-rejected/>



District 7 SOAR Rallies to KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

*By Dennis Barker
SOAR Chapter 7-34-2 Vice President*

On July 2, USW District 7 SOAR members, joined by the United Congregations of the Metro East (UCM) and other community allies, participated in a "Keep Families Together" demonstration, outside of Congressman Mike Bost's (Ill.-12) office.

The purpose of the "Keep Families Together" rally was to call upon Congressman Bost to join the chorus of voices against a new "zero tolerance" policy being implemented by the current administration under the Department of Health and Human Services. Under this new policy, every migrant who entered the United States, without authorization, would be criminally prosecuted, even if no other crime had been committed.

This resulted in approximately 3,000 immigrant children being separated from their parents, while seeking asylum from gang violence and poverty in Central America and elsewhere. Labor unions, civil/immigrant rights groups, congregations, public health advocates, and Republican and Democratic legislators alike, cited concerns with humanitarian, public health, legal and logistical realities of continuing to separate immigrant children from their parents.

Prior to the administration's "zero tolerance" policy, migrant families were detained together, sent back immediately, or paroled into the United States—never separated.

Reluctantly, the president signed an Executive Order on June 20 to modify the implementation of the "zero tolerance" policy, so that families can be detained indefinitely, as opposed to separating children from their parents.

While the administration saw this action as a compromise, there continues to be public outcry over the continuation of "zero tolerance" approach to asylum seekers, as well as the administration's failure to successfully reunite separated children with their parents.

Evidence is Mounting—Section 232 Tariffs Are **WORKING TO ACHIEVE FAIR-TRADE**

There are many of the current administration's policy issues that are opposed by a wide-ranging group of Americans.

Yet, many loyal supporters of the president stand by him, unequivocally.

If you are a United Steelworker (USW) member, whatever you think of the president, you must applaud his efforts to restore and protect the American steel industry.

For manufacturing workers—and the USW in particular—there is evidence mounting that his 2018 agenda has given a boost to American industries and their workforces.

Since the implementation of the Section 232 tariffs went into effect on March 23, the fluctuating number of Americans employed in the manufacturing industry has been steadily rising. The Section 232 tariffs require a 25 percent tariff on all imported steel products and a 10 percent tariff on imports of aluminum into the United States.

This policy has slowed the illegal dumping of steel into the U.S. and has encouraged American companies to resume, increase and start new production of American-made steel and aluminum.

Manufacturing employment has steadily increased each month of 2018, with more than 18,000 jobs added in May. Since the beginning of the year, manufacturing has added 250,000 jobs, a 2.1 percent increase.

With checks and balances in place limiting imports, it is likely this number will continue to increase in the coming months.

We mentioned in our last report that approximately 3,500 jobs in the American steel and aluminum industries returned only weeks after the tariffs were announced on March 8. Since then it is estimated that another 5,000 metal industry jobs will soon be filled as several companies have announced the restart of

idled factories, the expansion of existing plants and even plans for new steel company locations.

We last reported that U.S. Steel's Granite City Works would restart one of its two blast furnaces and call back 500 workers who had been laid off for more than two years. Well, Granite City is taking it one step further and restarting its second blast furnace and is in the process of hiring an additional 300 steelworkers.

While not all steelworker facility workers are represented by the USW, a large majority of the major companies work with the union to create benefit-friendly, middle-class jobs. USW workers are skilled and highly-trained employees who do their jobs under safe working conditions provided by the collective bargaining the USW enjoys with major steelmakers.

The current climate in the U.S. steel-making industry is not only a boost for those currently working in the mills, but it also is a big encouragement for younger workers, new to the industry, who are needed to replace an aging steel mill workforce.

This uptick in steel and aluminum manufacturing is also a boon to the many thousands of SOAR members and those who are contemplating retirement soon. A healthy, robust American steel industry ensures an increased workforce that will continue to fund benefits that support retired steelworkers. Those USW members who faithfully paid dues for the benefit of generations of steelworkers that came before them will be able to receive those same health and pension benefits to which they are also entitled.

There have been many attacks on the president's tariffs by Republican U.S. Senators who have introduced legislative amendments to limit his tariff authority.

Senators Bob Corker (R-TN) and Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA) recently tried to attach an amendment to a defense bill that would require Congress to approve all presidential tariff proposals.

That amendment was quickly thwarted by Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) who

objected to the amendment and made a strong case for keeping

the tariffs in place. Brown is a staunch supporter of the U.S. steel industry and the hundreds of thousands of workers employed in the mills or in the direct supply chain that supports American steel.

Adding Congressional approval to any Section 232 trade cases—which allow for import restrictions on national security grounds—would remove a critical trade tool, offer no replacement solution to deal with the risks caused by overcapacity and undermine the president who is in the middle of an attempt to rework American trade policy that has resulted in the loss of 5.1 million American jobs since 2001.

There will be additional attempts by legislators to undermine the Section 232 tariffs and it is important that our SOAR members make themselves heard by contacting their U.S. Senators and members of the House of Representatives to voice their continued support for the Section 232 tariffs.

The evidence shows that the tariffs are working and you must ask your elected representatives to encourage the administration to stand firm. Jobs—and lives—are at stake.

And while you are at it, a big thank you and a mention of your continued support of these “fair-trade” tariffs, should be sent to Senator Brown for his diligent work protecting the livelihoods of all USW members.

You can contact your members of Congress by calling or mailing their district offices or also by phoning the U.S. Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and asking to be connected to your Senator or U.S. Representative’s office.

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



SOAR Honors Immigrant Strikers Murdered at “LITTLE STEEL” Strike

By Bruce Bostick, SOAR Executive Board Member, District 1

Over eight decades ago, 70,000 steelworkers, including many new to our country, walked out of Republic mills, in the tough, violent strike that became known as the ‘Little Steel’ Strike. That fight was over the fundamental right of workers to form and be represented by a union of their choosing. Steelworkers won the right to unionize, but the sacrifices by workers were heavy. Some paid the ultimate price!

In Massillon, Ohio, one of the sites of that strike, three immigrant workers: Loghin Oroz, from Hungary, Nicholas Vathiaz, a Greek immigrant and Spanish native Fulgenzio Calzada, gave their lives for the worker’s cause. Vathiaz, 37 at the time, and Calzada, 47, were murdered, shot by police, on June 11, 1937, at a peaceful union rally that was attacked by cops. Oroz was gassed and badly beaten. He died a few days later.

For eighty years these working class heroes laid in their graves in Massillon, unnoticed, their sacrifices not celebrated. That was before Colorado University professor Ahmed White wrote a book about that struggle, “The Last Great Strike,” bringing these worker’s lives, and their murders by police, to the notice of Massillon Steelworker’s Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR) members.

“We had to find a way to honor these heroes,” stated Paul Santilli, president of Massillon SOAR Chapter 27-11. “Whatever rights we have are because these great men gave their lives to get them. We’ve had to fight for everything; nothing was ever given to us without a battle. Some of the younger folks think the company gave us benefits, rights. We have the responsibility to show our newer members how we won these rights!”

Santilli had spearheaded a push that got an historic plaque put up on the Massillon town square memorializing the ‘Little Steel Strike’ a decade ago.

Along with Massillon SOAR Secretary-Treasurer Tom Treisch, they reached out and built a committee to help on this project. First, they wanted to find the striker’s graves. Sue Burton, a pro-union poet who’d lived in the area, told them she’d heard stories of the fights as a child, that she had visited the grave sites, leaving flower, gifts, and poems. The stones were in poor shape and one was missing, so the committee took up fundraising to upgrade/replace the memorials.

“Nobody turned us down, everyone wanted to help out when we explained what it was for,” Tom Treisch said. “It took quite a while, but we got the sites cleaned up and a new stone placed at the cemetery, as well as a plaque honoring those martyrs put up on the square.”

“There’s no way we could have succeeded without others help, the reference librarian and genealogist, Jill Wingard, who tragically passed away in February, did tremendous work. We could not have found them without her help. AFL-CIO brought us heavy equipment that made it possible to get in there and repair the sites.”

This work culminated on May 5, 2018 with a gathering of hundreds at the Massillon Public Library, addressed by USW International President Leo W. Gerard, USW District 1 Director Dave McCall and others, to honor the three immigrant martyrs to labor’s cause.

“As we come together here to honor these three heroes, who sacrificed their lives, just stop and think, especially those who’ve worked in the mill, just what it would be like without our union, if you had no say, that



Members of the Little Steel Project Committee pose for a group photo next to the Little Steel Strike Historical Marker placed near the Massillon Town Square. Pictured left to right: Tom Treisch, Chapter 27-11 Secretary-Treasurer; Paul Santilli, Chapter 27-11 President; Fred Garrett, Chapter 27-27 President; Willie Moore, Chapter 27-1 President; Tom (Moe) Rickett, Chapter 27-11 Vice President; Don Lytle, Chapter 27-11 Trustee; Yvonne Daniels, Chapter 27-11 Trustee; Sherie Brown, Massillon Public Library Director. Not pictured: Janet Batiste, Chapter 27-11 Trustee.

the boss was god,” asked Leo Gerard. “We owe everything to these three men. Thanks to SOAR here, they are no longer unknown.”

Tiffany McGhee, leader of the USW Ohio Next Generation group, was impressed, as well. “This has been a real eye-opener not just for me, but for a lot of younger workers. It really puts things in perspective. The torch is being passed, and now it’s up to us.”

USW District 1 Director, Dave McCall, spoke about how, as a young worker, he was inspired to become more involved in the union. “It is never just about us personally,” he said. “Our struggles win the victories that we build on, that create the fighting union we now have. These men left their homes, like immigrants today, looking for a better life. Then, like today, they were called names, downgraded. However, because of the many, united in struggles, we have created something much greater.”

For Tom Treisch, it was personal. “I remember having to struggle when dad died, the same age as Mr. Calzada, at 47. He had to work hard his whole life. Nobody gave us anything; but, because of these fellows’ sacrifice we have a chance to do better.”

For 95-year old Michael Perez, whose father, Erasmo Perez, had participated in the strike after fleeing his home in Spain to escape the fascist coup Franco launched against the elected Popular Front government, it meant a lot to have those struggles memorialized. Erasmo’s grandson, Ray Perez, president of USW, Local 1124 in Massillon, was also present.

Ray said, “I never thought I’d see this. Every time I go past the square now, I can see the appreciation of this entire city for their sacrifices. This fight, for working people, is a family affair, it’s in our blood.”

“We didn’t know a lot about the strike when I was a kid,” said Ray. “My family lived in a neighborhood where literally everyone was from another country, and they all worked in the mill. Spaniards, Russians, Italians, Hungarians,

Pictured below, photos of the memorial stones, for the three immigrant strikers murdered at the Little Steel Strike, at their final resting place at the Massillon City Cemetery. Center photo: As part of the commemoration, a plaque honoring the three martyrs was placed next to the Little Steel Strike Historical Marker, located near the Massillon Town Square.



USW International President Leo W. Gerard



USW District 1 Director Dave McCall

Greeks—they had to learn English to be able to speak to each other. I remember when I got a job in the mill; my grandma called me over and told me how happy she was that I got a good Union job. It just seemed natural to get active and run for local union president. I’m proud of granddad and proud of my Union!”

Library Director Sherie Brown said that since they’d gotten involved in this memorial, many people had expressed interest in learning more about unions, labor history. They’d begun working with a student group that is working on a documentary film on the area’s labor history, she said. “We have thousands of retired steelworkers in this area. We forget that workers had to organize and protest, fight for things that workers take for granted now.”

“This isn’t the end, just the start,” said Fred Garrett, president of the Golden Lodge I.W. Abel SOAR Chapter 27-27, in Canton. “We plan to use all this to help us build a coalition to fight for social justice for all.”

PROTECT OUR PENSIONS

Keeping up Efforts to Protect Retirement Security

Retirement security remains a key focus of Rapid Response this year. The work began with a joint SOAR-Rapid Response action that ultimately generated over 20,000 postcards destined for U.S. Senators and Representatives. It continued at the 2018 Rapid Response and Legislative Conference in May, where retirement topics were featured. When hundreds of active and retired members descended upon Capitol Hill for meetings with lawmakers during that conference, we raised the issue and delivered the postcards.

Now, the effort continues with a push to protect the hard-earned benefits of our members in two financially troubled multiemployer pension plans*, the PACE Industry Union-Management Pension Fund (PIUMPF) and the National Integrated Group Pension Plan (NIGPP).

PROTECT OUR PENSIONS CAMPAIGN

Our union has always played a key role in safeguarding retirement security. For example, the Steelworkers were central to the enactment of the Employee Retirement Income Security

Act of 1974. That law created a government-run, privately-funded, insurance program to protect pension benefits called the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC). When a crisis unfolded in the steel industry resulting in closure after closure, it was this law that ensured the pensions of impacted Steelworkers didn't disappear. Prior to the law, there was no protection for workers.

Today, we have a new challenge. For some multiemployer pension plans, we've seen a perfect storm of hardships that's pushed them from secure financial footing into distress. Plant closures from bad trade policy, a massive loss of assets due to the financial crisis of the Great Recession, and other factors have left PIUMPF and NIGPP in a troubled financial situation, putting the benefits of current and future retirees at risk without government action. This is an issue impacting many workers outside of our union as well. In total, a million people could see their pensions in jeopardy. The magnitude of the problem is putting the future solvency of a portion of the PBGC that deals with multiemployer plans into jeopardy.



Pictured left to right: Gerald Sokolow, SOAR Chapter 20-15 Vice President; Charmane Moore, Chapter 20-15 member and Mel Moore, Chapter 20-15 Trustee of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Many of the circumstances that landed the plans in their current state had to do with government decisions and unforeseeable changes in industry. Government decisions also determine how these plans can operate. That's why our union is actively involved once again in working with Congress to find solutions.

There is a bipartisan committee made up of Senators and Representatives who are tasked with developing recommendations and legislative language designed to significantly improve the solvency of multiemployer pension plans and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. They have until November 30, 2018. We've launched a campaign to encourage action and ensure that pensions are protected.



SOAR Rallies to PROTECT OUR PENSIONS

On July 12, workers and their families took action in Columbus, Ohio to put a spotlight on America's growing pension crisis. With hundreds of multiemployer pension plans facing insolvency in the next 10 years, we're calling on Congress to act now. The retirement security of millions of active and retired workers is threatened through no fault of their own.

Steelworkers were among the thousands of union members rallying in Columbus in support of a solution to the crisis facing many multiemployer pension plans.

RAPID RESPONSE COORDINATORS

DISTRICT 1	Randie Pearson	419-779-0446
DISTRICT 2	Sue Browne	269-838-5956
DISTRICT 4	Mark McDonald	716-553-0239
DISTRICT 7	Jerome Davison	219-617-5338
DISTRICT 8	Ronnie Watson	540-354-6173
DISTRICT 9	Shane Mitchell	205-631-0137
DISTRICT 10	George Piasecki	610-368-9970
DISTRICT 11	Bob Ryan	651-295-4155
DISTRICT 12	Catherine Houston	510-457-5175
DISTRICT 13	Andy Frye	918-232-8128

GET INVOLVED!

If all or a part of your pension is in PIUMPF or NIGPP, please reach out to your District Rapid Response Coordinator listed above, or by calling **412-562-2291**. We're currently holding meetings and asking impacted members to write letters to key Senators and Representatives, along with other actions. Not in either of those plans? We have other ways to act in solidarity.

The more retirees who speak out, the better our chances for a productive solution to all of our retirement security concerns, whether that's regarding Social Security, Medicare, or our current fight over multiemployer pensions. We've worked too hard for our retirement. Let's make sure it's there for all of us.



*Multiemployer pension plans are created by collective bargaining agreements between at least one labor union and two or more employers, often in the same industry.



District 7 SOAR Holds Annual Commemoration of 1937 Republic Steel Memorial Day Massacre

By Scott Marshall
SOAR Executive Board Member District 7

On May 19, SOAR Chapter 31-9, supported by USW District 7 and SOAR, held our annual commemoration of the 1937 Republic Steel Memorial Day Massacre in South Chicago. On Memorial Day 1937, Republic Steel workers, with families and supporters, marched peacefully to the plant gates; demanding union recognition and a contract for "Little Steel." They were met by Chicago police officers hired by Republic Steel, who opened fire killing ten marchers. Many more marchers, including children, were wounded and beaten; resulting in serious injuries.

This year's event featured a rally and march. Steelworkers were joined by District 7 Director Mike Millsap, Poor Peoples Campaign Illinois leader Rev. Saeed Richardson and community leaders. The rally took place at the former USW Local 1033 hall; right across the street from where the massacre took place. Also featured were two George Washington High School students, reading their winning contest essays about the Massacre and its impact on labor today. Each winner was awarded a \$500 dollar college scholarship. Vic Storino, the last president of Republic Steel Local 1033 said, "We will never forget the heroic efforts of these marchers for our union and for the labor movement." The rally and march ended with flowers being placed on the local monument of the ten, led by District 7 Women of Steel activists.





Washington Wrap

By Ken Kovack
SOAR Legislative Director
Washington, D.C.

Petitions and More



Every week I find myself signing online petitions to save Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid from attacks by this administration and the Republican Majority in Congress. Unfortunately, their efforts to erode and/or eliminate these vital programs are part of a well-organized, well-financed campaign backed by big business and an army of lobbyists.

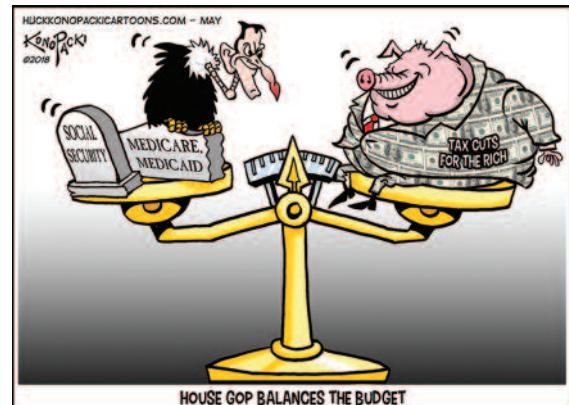
We know these programs are supported by the overwhelming majority of Americans, because they have

helped protect countless senior citizens and Americans with limited resources avoid the depths of poverty.

In April 2018, 97 percent of Republicans, and just 4 percent of Democrats voted the wrong way when they supported a Balanced Budget Amendment, which (according to many experts) would speed up the erosion of the Social Security Trust Fund. This legislation ultimately failed; but, only because U.S. House rules require a 2/3 majority to pass legislation regarding specific types of appropriations and taxation.

If we fail to protect these programs, millions of Americans will suffer the consequences. Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid were designed with the greater good in mind. Therefore, it is up to all of us to protect the future of these programs.

Many of the people who voted for the president fail to realize how damaging his agenda really is. The real



harm of the attack on Social Security and Medicare won't be realized until it is too late to act. However, we cannot wait that long.

We must dedicate ourselves to protecting these programs through demonstrations in our communities, giving financial backing to candidates who will fight for retirees, and voting in ALL elections (state and federal).

I leave you with this:

**Congressional Midterms
are on Tuesday,
November 6, 2018.**

STEELWORKERS "GO ON THE OFFENSIVE!"

continued from page 1

Security Expansion Act, that would ensure that Social Security could pay every benefit owed to every eligible American, increase cost-of-living adjustments, and raises the cap on contributions by those making over \$250,000 a year.

Additionally, the USW brought forward several extremely important trade-related issues:

- NAFTA: The union urges lawmakers to demand that a renegotiated NAFTA dramatically improves labor rights and rules of origin by increasing the automobile content rules to 75 percent, which would help raise wages and living standards in all three countries.
- Tariffs: The union urges lawmakers to defend the use of all available trade tools (Section 232 on steel and aluminum and Section 301 on intellectual property theft) to hold China accountable and restore balance to our trade relationship with China.
- And, lastly, the union urges Senators to oppose the PRINT Act. S 2835 which would interfere with ongoing trade cases and would be a direct attack on workers' and industries' rights to pursue justice through the legitimate use of U.S. trade laws.

After the rally on Capitol Hill, the 650 steelworker delegates in attendance spent the remainder of the day hand-delivering over 20,000 postcards which were collected during the SOAR/Rapid Response "Protect Retirement Security" action, and lobbying their home representatives to take a number of actions, including advocating for:

- S.2810 (the Workplace Democracy Act),
- S.2143 (the WAGE Act) and
- S.427 (the Social Security Expansion Act) for protecting retiree security.

USW activists also expressed many concerns of NAFTA; the Section 232 and Section 301 tariff issues and urged opposition of S.2835 (the PRINT Act).

We were sent home with strong encouragement to show up, and be part of, the growing Poor People's Campaign, demanding justice across the nation.

Furthermore, everything discussed was put into the context of the extreme importance of the 2018 elections—that defeating the GOP could open the way for the massive progressive changes the USW is pushing for.

By Bruce Bostick, SOAR Executive Board Member, District 1 and SOAR Delegate to the 2018 Rapid Response Conference



Unions Will Remain Strong Despite Janus Setback

By Robert Roach, Jr.

The Supreme Court's recent decision in *Janus v. AFSCME* was applauded by conservatives as a win for free speech and worker freedom. The reality is that the anti-union decision is a direct attack on worker rights.

A network of billionaire conservative donors were behind the Janus lawsuit. Their goal was to bleed unions of precious resources and make it harder for organized workers to improve their workplaces and negotiate for better wages and a more secure retirement.

This anti-union decision affects active workers as well as those hoping to retire one day. Unions are instrumental in negotiating better pension benefits and health insurance plans that benefit older workers and those transitioning into retirement. Fewer resources could divert unions' attention to membership retention instead of effective bargaining for retirement benefits.

With the Janus decision, the court has implemented a "right-to-work for less" policy for public sector workers across the country. Employees in unionized public sector workplaces are now banned from requiring all members who benefit from the union contract to contribute to the

costs of union representation. And we know that workers in states already under right-to-work laws experience a higher poverty rate, widening gender pay gaps, and decreasing wages.

Despite this defeat, organized labor will remain strong. We have seen thousands of workers form or join unions this year alone. Historic strikes and walkouts, such as those we've seen recently by teachers in several states, show the collective power that unions bring to their workers and their communities.

The corporate interests may have won the latest case, but union strength will not be undermined. The Alliance will stand together in solidarity with our union brothers and sisters across all industries.



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

Family Leave Plan **UNDERMINES SOCIAL SECURITY**

Senator Marco Rubio's proposal to fund paid family leave by cutting participants' future Social Security benefits is nothing less than a Trojan Horse to undermine Social Security—and lays the groundwork for further damage to the program. Social Security is not a piggy bank or ATM to be used for other programs, no matter how commendable.

"Our Social Security system is a foundation of economic security for workers and their families in the

event of a worker's retirement, disability or death. While we believe that expanding access to paid parental leave is important for all workers, we oppose legislation that would finance it by cutting future Social Security benefits," said Max Richtman, president and CEO of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare.

Senator Rubio's proposal would weaken Social Security's long-term financial health. Caregivers taking their retirement benefits in advance as paid family leave may never be able to reimburse Social Security due to premature death or disability. Former Congressional Budget Office Director Douglas Holtz-Eakin estimates that Senator Rubio's program

would cost Social Security \$10.5 billion in the first year and \$227 billion over ten years.

Social Security already helps millions of younger working-age families (approximately 16 million beneficiaries) through disability, dependents' and survivors' benefits. The truth is that this family leave proposal from Senator Rubio, an outspoken advocate of "entitlement reform" (code for cutting earned benefits), is—at its core—a benefit cut for future retirees and their families.

Sources:

www.ncpssm.org
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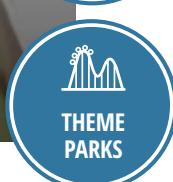


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