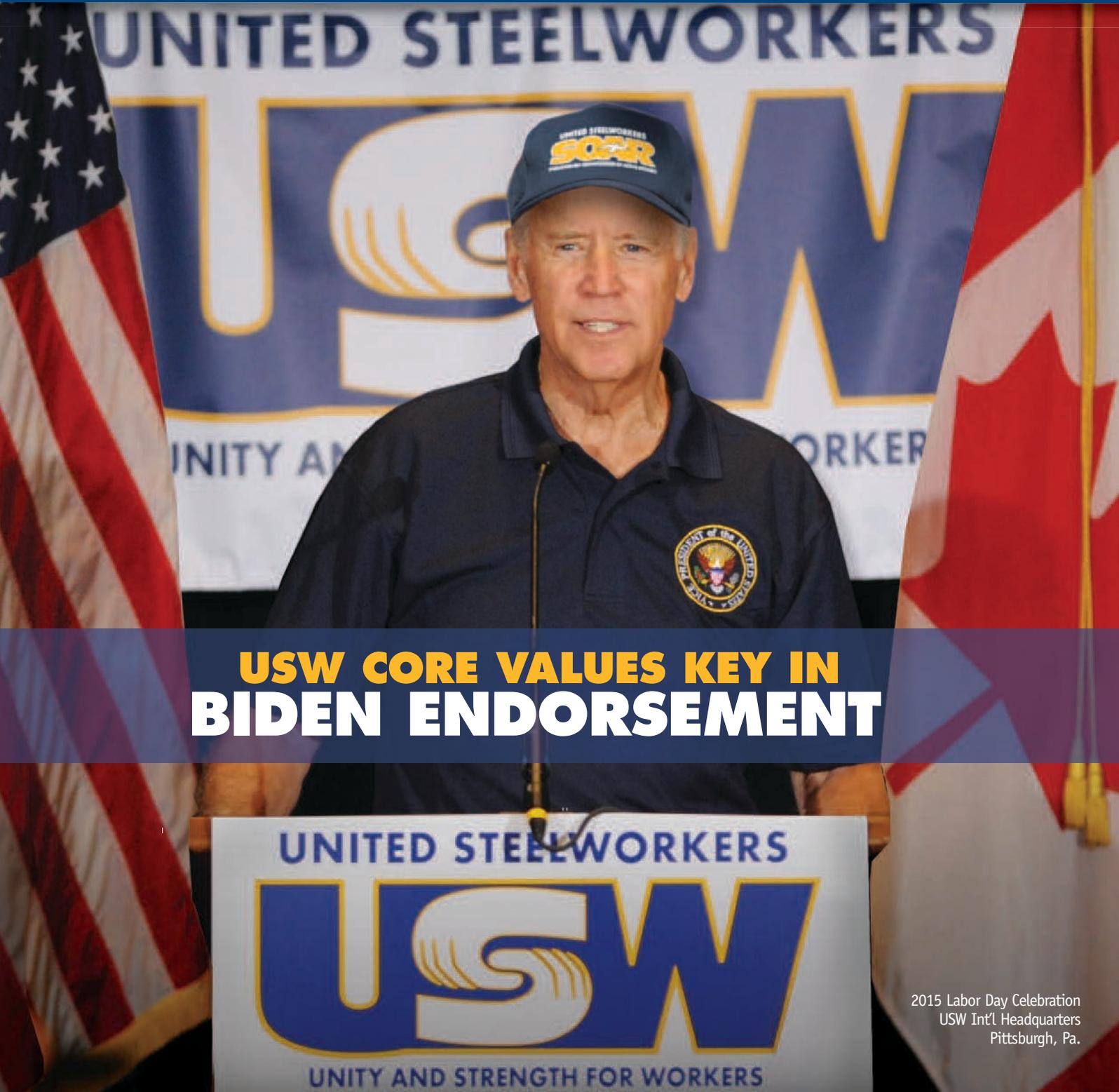


# USW@Work

A Regular Publication of the United Steelworkers

Volume 15/3

A Powerful Voice for Workers



## **USW CORE VALUES KEY IN BIDEN ENDORSEMENT**

UNITED STEELWORKERS



UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS



**BILL PIENTA**  
*SOAR President*

## Why Wouldn't We Do the Same?

With the political season already in full-swing in some areas, I thought it would be of value to remind everyone of the stated purpose of SOAR and what we as an organization strive to do. Our purpose, in part, is “to engage in political and legislative action.” SOAR also exists “to advance the policies of the USW.” In doing so, SOAR will attempt to provide factual, accurate data and science-supported information to our members to provide reasoning for the position(s) that we take on issues and candidates.

Lately, too many conversations that I have been having with folks include comments like, “It’s just common sense...” or “Everybody knows...,” or “ You don’t have to be a scientist to figure that out...” These types of comments are usually reserved for those who have an opinion, but nothing else to back up their position about a subject matter. Don’t get me wrong, everyone is entitled to an opinion and I respect that; but, SOAR has an obligation

and a responsibility to give a logical reason as to why we take the position(s) that we do. Also, as to why we do not take a position on some issues that may be important to individuals, but not germane to the reason SOAR exists.

The USW as an organization has taken a position that any federal candidate (U.S. House, Senate or President) who wishes to be considered for endorsement must return a completed USW Federal Candidate Questionnaire which deals with issues important to our union.

I believe it is proper of our union not to consider any candidate that will not take the time to put in writing their position on labor issues and state whether they support our position on these issues. If a candidate doesn’t support labor issues, worker’s rights, and retirement security then they do not support the members or retirees of our union. For example: The Chamber of Commerce supports business-friendly candidates. The NRA supports candidates that support their position. Why would we as a labor organization not do the same?



Following our union’s decision to postpone the 2020 USW Constitutional Convention due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the International SOAR Conference has also been postponed. Accordingly, the next International SOAR Conference is rescheduled for August 5 - 6th, 2022, at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas.





**JULIE STEIN**  
SOAR Director

## Take Your Vote Seriously. Your Life, Our Future Depends Upon It.

If there is one thing you take seriously after reading this, please let it be my advice to visit [www.uswvoices.org/state-voting-information](http://www.uswvoices.org/state-voting-information) to look up your voter registration status and find out your options for voting early or by mail.

Now, let me tell you why.

States and localities all across America are struggling to conduct primary elections during an unforeseen global health pandemic we've all come to know as COVID-19.

In an attempt to ensure voters don't have to choose between potentially exposing themselves to a life-threatening virus and exercising their right to vote, some states sent mail ballot request forms to every voter. Some extended early voting hours. Others, in fact many, consolidated polling locations in an attempt to minimize voter contact which inadvertently resulted in long lines with voters waiting hours to cast their ballot.

While early and mail balloting efforts have not been flawless, countless voters who waited until Election Day to cast their ballot faced extreme hardships at their polling locations. Many were unable to vote altogether, and we won't know entirely how many for months to come.

In states like Pennsylvania, Ohio, Wisconsin, New York, Kentucky and Georgia, voters reported waiting in line for hours (some many as eight hours) to vote.

The example of Jefferson County, Kentucky will answer your obvious question as to why voters in many states forced to wait so long. Prior to Election Day, the county consolidated polling locations for some 616,000 voters into just one site. You read that correctly. One polling location for 616,000 voters.

This example is drastic, but certainly not unique. And, it is exactly why every voter needs to take serious consideration for early and mail balloting opportunities that are available to them.

But let's be honest. Voter access and disenfranchisement is not a new problem. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has popularized the inequities and structural barriers that have plagued our democratic process for years.

The 2013 decision of the U.S. Supreme Court to gut the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is one of the most far-reaching and detrimental rulings in history. When written, the VRA required certain states and localities with a history of racial discrimination to seek approval from the federal government for any changes they wished to make to voting procedures at the local level. The idea was to create transparency and an opportunity to vet voting reforms prior to voters being disenfranchised.

In a 5-4 vote, the court struck down key provisions of the law, which meant that the burden to prove discrimination would now fall on people who have already been disenfranchised rather than on the federal government.

This change in process has created an environment where some states have been rewriting voting laws haphazardly and without reason, and voters (particularly those of color, the elderly, and young people) are paying the price. For more information, visit [www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/new-voting-restrictions-america](http://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/new-voting-restrictions-america)

Under COVID-19 and the gutting of the Voting Rights Act, a worst-case scenario is being realized with regard to our most vital civil right: the right to vote.

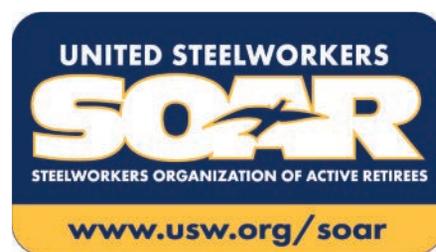
***Don't wait until Election Day to decide how you will cast your ballot.***

*Join 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, but six feet apart!*



[facebook.com/groups/uswsoar](https://facebook.com/groups/uswsoar)



**SOAR in ACTION**

## USW@Work

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# SOAR in ACTION



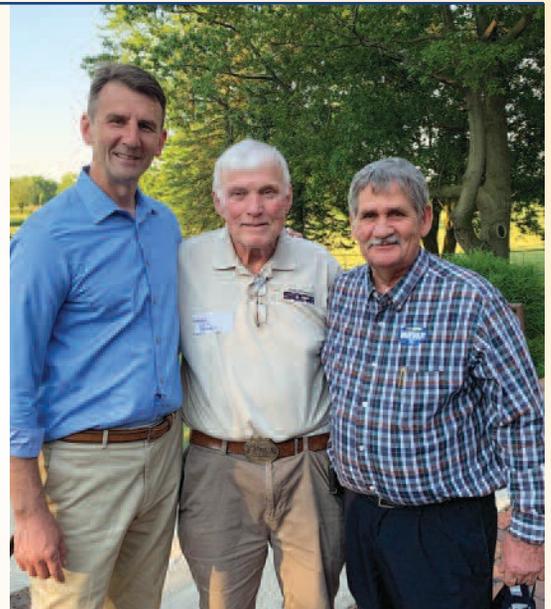
Chicago, IL, — In June, two SOAR/USW members and Chicago Federation of Labor Delegates, Roberta Wood and Scott Marshall, participated in a more than 2-mile long car caravan protest against the killing of George Floyd in Minnesota, while in police custody. The caravan was organized by several groups including Black Lives Matter and also a special-interest group that has long-sought for community oversight of the police by creating an elected-Chicago Police Accountability Council, that would have authority to investigate incidents and to promote better relations between the police and communities which they serve. **Solidarity Works! We are all fighting back!**



SOAR Chapter 4-4, the Steelworkers Retirees of Utica, New York, held their first meeting after the state's reopening, on June 10. The meeting took place under a pavilion that easily allowed them to practice "safe" distancing.

This photo was taken at the Frank Mrvan victory party when he won the Democratic primary nomination for the seat to be vacated by retiring Rep. Pete Visclosky (IN-01). Mrvan is enthusiastically championed by the United Steelworkers and SOAR. Director Millsap has encouraged and fully supported SOAR and USW actives working hard to elect Mrvan. Mrvan has a long history of support for Steelworkers and all workers. As a North Township Trustee in Lake County, Indiana, Mrvan lead a great fight to support USW members at British Petroleum (BP) in their strike for a fair contract in 2019. He also worked hard to help strikers and their families with their needs, during the strike.

Ken Yatsko was, and is, a leading light in the campaign. He made over 2,600 phone calls to local Steelworkers and SOAR members and families. Yes, 2,600! Ken says he got a great response and convinced most, not only to support Mrvan, but to get out to vote and plan to bring family and friends, and sibling workers to vote. What a great response. Ken says that fewer than a dozen hung up on him and even fewer said they would vote against Mrvan. When asked why he worked so hard, Ken replied, "Hey I know and love my union, what they want they get from me. I retired 16 years ago, I didn't quit the Union, and the Union didn't quit me!"  
Steelworkers Strong! Solidarity Works!



Left to right: Frank Mrvan, Democratic candidate for Indiana 1st Congressional District; Ken Yatsko, a District 7 SOAR coordinator; and Mike Millsap, USW District 7 Director.



# USW CORE VALUES KEY IN BIDEN ENDORSEMENT

In May, the USW International Executive Board voted to endorse former Vice President Joe Biden in the 2020 presidential campaign.

**“We came to this endorsement through listening,” said USW International President Tom Conway. “We listened to our members (active and retired) when they told us that their top issues were affordable health care and prescription drugs, retirement security, and labor laws that protect working people.”**

In Biden’s response to the USW Federal Candidate Questionnaire, he pledged to fight on behalf of workers and decried President Trump’s rollback of union rights and the relentless efforts to undermine workplace safety and worker protections over the last three years.

“(W)e’ve got to rebuild the backbone of the country: the middle class. And that means encouraging union organizing and collective bargaining. I will fight alongside you to make sure every worker in America has the option to join a union,” Biden said.

Our union also sent the Federal Candidate Questionnaire to President Trump, but after six months he still has not acknowledged it or responded.

In late June, Vice President Biden released his Plan for Older Americans where he stressed that strengthening Social Security and helping middle-class families grow their retirement savings is key to our moral obligation to rebuild the middle class.

## **Specifically, Biden pledged to:**

- ▶ Fight for affordable prescription drugs and stand up to the profiteering by drug companies.
- ▶ Protect and strengthen Medicare as we know it.
- ▶ Protect and preserve Social Security, and strongly oppose privatization.
- ▶ Fight for incentives that will help middle-class Americans save for retirement, and reward them when we do.

While not specifically in Biden’s Plan for Older Americans, his clear and long-standing commitment to growing the union movement is also central to his promise to build greater security for future generations of retiring Americans.

*For more information on our union’s endorsement of Joe Biden for President, please see the story inside the USW@Work Summer 2020 edition.*

We also invite you to see Vice President Biden’s full answers as well as summaries of his responses at:

[www.uswvoices.org/JoAnswers](http://www.uswvoices.org/JoAnswers)

**Our union is stronger when Steelworker retirees are involved as activists, advocates and volunteers; which is why the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR) was established, in 1985.**



# DEVELOPING SYNERGIES

## Between SOAR and NextGen

**Members of the SOAR Chapter 3-14 executive recently met with the Local 1944 NextGen Committee via a Zoom conference call to discuss ways we could work together for the benefit of our retired and active members.**



Allan Haggstrom

Chapter executive members attending the meeting were Allan Haggstrom (President), Birgit Haggstrom (Vice-President) and Lori Travis (Trustee).

A common challenge for many chapters is outreach to retired members regarding joining SOAR. How do chapters reach out to retired members when privacy concerns restrict access to contact information? It seems word of mouth has been the go-to method to communicate with retired members, but when there are

thousands of retirees, this becomes challenging. Another method that would be more effective would be for pension plans to distribute information to plan members. However, where pension plans are willing to assist in this type of communication, SOAR is required to cover administration (e.g., labour and printing) and postage costs.

Similarly, how do chapters contact active members who are now eligible to join SOAR when the same privacy concerns exist? Recent changes to the SOAR bylaws now state that a person “age 45 and over who agrees with and supports the guiding principles and programs of our organization shall be eligible for full membership in SOAR...”

With help from NextGen, communicating with active members can be easier. In our discussions with NextGen,

they agreed to assist by posting information on workplace bulletin boards and distributing application forms on our behalf. They will also help by discussing SOAR at Local and Unit meetings and perhaps inviting SOAR members to these meetings to discuss the principles and benefits of membership.

One of Chapter 3-14’s key initiatives has been the development of a pre-retirement course. As members approach retirement, there are many things they may not have considered. What major adjustments will have to be made? In addition to the psychological and social adjustments, there are financial impacts. Will they have sufficient income to support themselves and their family? Preparation for retirement should begin early in a member’s career, long before retirement is contemplated. Course development is complete and is being tested with our executive. NextGen is interested in helping to promote the course as well as co-instructing. We discussed hosting these training classes using video conferencing.

We discussed how SOAR could support active members during the collective bargaining process. SOAR members could offer expertise and knowledge of union/management history to in relation to collective bargaining issues. What is the importance of certain clauses, what was sacrificed to get them, what could losing them mean to members? Understanding these issues can help the membership guard against the loss of important contract provisions.

Clearly, there are many issues that SOAR and NextGen have in common. We agreed that we will meet regularly to discuss these and other issues of mutual interest.

*Allan Haggstrom  
President  
SOAR Chapter 3-14  
Vancouver, B.C.*

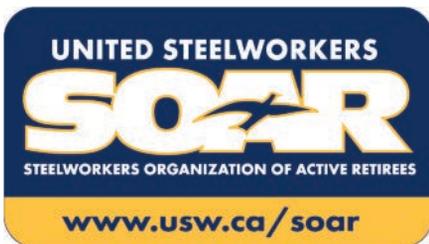


# Pandemic Brings Out the Best in SOAR Members

**Regina, Sask.** — Across Canada, SOAR chapters and members have risen to the challenges created by COVID-19. Many have set up phone banks to call their most vulnerable members to offer help and assistance with groceries or needed medical prescriptions during the forced lockdown and confinement. Some call just to stay connected and let the members know that someone cares.

Others have stepped up their volunteer activities for needed services in their communities, such as Brother John Szala, trustee of SOAR Chapter 3-19. For the last 15 years, John has volunteered for Regina Education and Action on Child Hunger (REACH), a not-for-profit organization that provides good, nutritious food to anyone in the community that needs it. REACH has several stores across the city which serve the community.

*Thank you to all who have stepped up during this crisis to help the most vulnerable and needy in our communities.*



John Szala (forefront) loads boxes at REACH in Regina, Sask.

With the establishment of SOAR, our union solidified its focus on the unique issues impacting USW retirees and their spouses. Since then, SOAR has been engaged in countless efforts to assure security for current and future generations of retirees regardless of whether they belong to a union.



Bill Boone was a fresh-faced 23-year-old in 1952 when he cast his first ballot for U.S. president, while proudly serving aboard an aircraft carrier off the coast of Korea.

The U.S. Postal Service carried that vote untold miles to the election board in Boone's hometown of Benton, Arkansas, and he's considered "the mail" an essential part of life ever since.



# Killing the Messenger

By Tom Conway  
USW International President

Today, the 90-year-old retired Steelworker relies on the postal service to deliver his medicines, Social Security checks and letters from relatives. A dedicated letter carrier even walks the mail up the driveway—past the mailbox—to Boone's front door.

"I told him, 'You can't retire until I die,'" Boone said.

The postal service delivers to every U.S. address, no matter how isolated, and charges consistent, reasonable rates to all customers. It's a lifeline for military members and the elderly. It keeps commerce humming and the country connected.

Americans love the postal service. Yet Donald Trump wants to kill it.

The postal service lost billions of dollars as businesses scaled back operations or closed during the pandemic. The agency usually supports itself with sales of stamps and other products. But now, without as much as \$75 billion in emergency federal aid, it will go bankrupt in months.

Americans under stay-at-home orders, with limited access to stores and restaurants, need the postal service more than ever. They overwhelmingly support saving it.

But Trump refuses to help unless the agency quadruples rates on packages it delivers for Amazon and other companies. Because Amazon, UPS and



Bill Boone

FedEx won't deliver to some addresses, such as those in rural areas, they often rely on the postal service to carry packages the so-called "last mile" to a recipient's door.

If the postal service raised rates, these companies would merely pass along the

higher costs to their customers. And many Americans, like the 30 million or so who just lost their jobs because of the pandemic, can't afford that.

The death of the postal service would deprive Americans of a way to vote, pay bills, apply for passports, get prescriptions, send letters, receive tax refunds, collect Social Security and ship items ranging from gold bars to cremated remains.

It would threaten the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, a law-enforcement agency that investigates narcotics trafficking, identify theft and other crimes.

And if the postal service vanished, so would the army of letter carriers who keep tabs on elderly residents, call the fire department when they smell smoke on their routes and generally serve as unofficial neighborhood watchmen.

"I just can't believe the government would think about shutting down the postal service," said Boone, who worked at Reynolds Metals Co. for nearly 30 years and at Alcoa for 10 more.

"It would be kind of like living without people picking up your trash. In fact, it's just not an issue that Congress or anybody should have to discuss."

If Trump kills the postal service, people in remote areas—such as the 272 customers along a 191-mile rural delivery route in Montana and other Americans whom letter carriers now reach by mule, snowmobile and boat—would face higher rates from private shipping companies.

If they could get service at all.

"If private enterprise took over, I think it would be a lot more expensive, and our rural delivery would probably just evaporate," said Mike Harkin, a longtime member of United

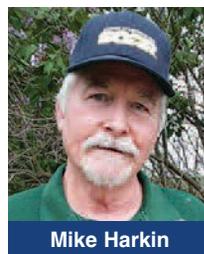
Steelworkers (USW) Local 310L in Des Moines, Iowa. "I'd probably have to drive to town every time to mail stuff."

Harkin, a Firestone retiree and member of the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR Chap-

ter 11UR2), seldom sees FedEx and UPS trucks on his rural road miles from the small town of Woodward.

But the mail truck is another story. Harkin says his letter carrier will gladly drive packages up his quarter-mile-long driveway if they're too big for the mailbox.

Although the postal service hemorrhaged money during the pandemic, it's worked hard to keep America functioning through the crisis.



Mike Harkin

# Our Failing U.S. Infrastructure Continues to Crumble – Graded D+

By Jeff Bonior

## We have reached the dog days of summer but not much is normal in America in 2020.

Our nation and the world are beset with the worst health crisis in more than 100 years with the spread of the potentially deadly COVID-19 virus.

Massive public protests have taken place in American and foreign cities focusing on the racial inequalities that have festered for far too long.

And in America, we are gearing up for a presidential election that is being overshadowed by diverging opinions on how to respond to these important issues.

Yet, during all this uncertainty, there is one thing most every American agrees upon—the need to repair and rebuild our infrastructure.

During his presidential campaign in 2016, President Trump constantly spoke of the large investment he would make in upgrading America’s crumbling roads, bridges, airports, schools and water systems. For 3½ years now, Trump and Democrat congressional leaders have talked about a substantial financial investment in infrastructure that would be a boon to the American economy. Businesses would thrive and many thousands of well-paying jobs would be created.

These long-overdue improvements would create a more modern and comfortable life for all Americans and be a most necessary investment in the future of the United States.

The American Society of Civil Engineers gives overall U.S. infrastructure a D+ grade. It is becoming increasingly unsafe to depend on America’s infrastructure and most Democrats and Republicans agree that this dilemma should be a top priority.

Roads, bridges and tunnels across the U.S. have become unsafe for vehicular travel. Drinking water is tainted in many municipalities because of our antiquated pipeline system. Our mass transportation systems and our airports make us look like a third-world country compared to many of our Western allies.

Yet, all we get is a band-aid approach every two or three years to patch the holes in our failing system.

As always, when it comes to infrastructure, the devil is in the details. It seems the President and members of congress constantly fail to reach a compromise on the details of an infrastructure package that could cost anywhere from \$500 billion to \$2 trillion dollars. The effort has been so pathetic that the phrase “Infrastructure Week” has become a running joke in Washington.

The fact that tens of millions of Americans are out of work and the country is now facing an economic crisis of frightening proportions, investing in infrastructure projects could literally lay the groundwork for our nation’s recovery.



Instead of campaigning or playing golf, President Trump needs to step up and be the infrastructure leader he promised us he would be four years ago. He brags about America having the “greatest economy ever” before the COVID-19 virus put many Americans out of work so he should get together with congressional leaders of both parties and create a real plan to improve the essential structures we pay for with our tax dollars.

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**We urge all our SOAR brothers and sisters to contact your representatives in the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives and let them know before the November election that you support a comprehensive infrastructure plan now. Please call your elected officials’ district offices or dial the U.S. Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121 and ask to be connected to their Washington office.**

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*Jeffrey Bonior is a staff writer for the Alliance for American Manufacturing.*





# SOAR EYES ON WASHINGTON

By Jay McMurrin, SOAR Legislative Director \*

**As Americans prepared for the 4th of July holiday, President Donald Trump was busy touting his United States, Mexico and Canada (USMCA) trade agreement, which took full effect that week. Saying that the trade deal is a major win for U.S. workers, the President’s victory celebration may**



Jay McMurrin

**be short-lived as the Mexican Supreme Court gets ready to hear challenges to the agreement’s labor standards. The pact includes language that will bolster independent Unions and outlaw “protective agreements,” which are negotiated by Mexico’s notorious “company Unions” without worker input or approval.**

The challenge was brought by those “company” unions, recognizing their days are numbered if the trade agreement is allowed to move forward as written. SOAR President, Bill Pienta said that the labor language in the USMCA is the thing that makes it different from past trade deals. He stated, “Employee-represented unions, negotiating enforceable contracts for workers will raise the Mexican standard of living and level the competitive playing field for American workers. Without those standards, this is just another job-killing free trade agreement.”

Saying that, “For too long it has been portrayed that Americans had to choose between good-paying jobs and enacting progressive policies to protect our environment,” USW President Tom Conway announced the Union’s support of a new national manufacturing agenda developed by the BlueGreen Alliance (BGA), a coalition of labor, environmental, religious and community organizations committed to working together to solving today’s environmental challenges in ways that create and maintain quality jobs and build a stronger, fairer economy. Conway went on to say, “We believe that we can have both good jobs and a clean environment by pursuing the objectives of the BlueGreen agenda.”

The BGA agenda outlines a set of actions to modernize industry, create good-paying Union jobs, combat climate change, and ensure fairness for workers and their communities. There are five pillars of the agenda: Investing in a

new generation of American manufacturing; to innovate to transform industry; to responsibly mine, recycle and reclaim critical materials necessary for a secure, clean economy; to use public investment to create markets for a strong, clean, fair manufacturing economy; and to change the rules to build a clean economy that works for all Americans.

In a statement supporting the BGA Agenda, Conway further stated that, “USW members have led the way in producing the next generation of clean, environmentally-friendly products, such as tires, paper, and wind energy. To achieve the goals laid out in the agenda, we will need the support of workers, government officials and industry leaders.” Conway testified before the U.S. Senate, July 1, on the global climate crisis and submitted the BGA’s manufacturing agenda as part of his testimony.

Finally, as the COVID 19 pandemic continues to rage across the U.S. in record numbers, and millions of Americans remain unemployed, many without health insurance, President Trump and a group of former Republican attorneys general are asking the U.S. Supreme Court to invalidate the Affordable Care Act (ACA) or “Obamacare” as it is more popularly referred to. They contend that when Congress acted to eliminate the “Public Mandate,” the tax levied on individuals who failed to sign up for insurance coverage, the whole plan became unconstitutional.”

Obamacare has been a target of Republican scorn since its inception. However, several parts of the ACA are extremely popular with a majority of Americans. The ban on denying coverage for people with pre-existing conditions, children remaining on policies until age 26, and elimination of lifetime maximums have been favorites of workers and retirees from both political parties. It is unclear if the case will be heard and a decision issued before the November election. However, the President and his GOP allies in Congress are promising to protect the pre-existing conditions clause without offering a plan to replace the ACA.

***SOAR will stay the course and keep our eyes on Washington, as we continue the fight to protect and enhance the quality of life of our retirees and working families.***

\* Jay McMurrin continues to serve as SOAR Executive Board Member, District 2.



# Medicare and Social Security Are on the Ballot in November

By Robert Roach, Jr.

**Each summer the anniversaries of Medicare and Social Security provide an opportunity to reflect on the difference these programs have made to generations of Americans. Medicare and Medicaid turned 55 July 30 and Social Security will celebrate its 85th year August 14.**

These programs are essential to the retirement security of more than 62 million people across the country who rely on their earned Social Security benefits and 52.6 million people aged 65 and older who rely on Medicare for guaranteed health coverage. But we can never take these programs for granted, and their future is on the ballot in November.

Six months ago, while attending the World Economic Forum’s summit of global elites in the Swiss mountaintop retreat of Davos, President Trump told CNBC that — if reelected — cuts to Social Security would be “on the table.”

“It’ll be toward the end of the year,” he continued. He was responding to a question about the overall budget and specifically, cuts to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

“And at the right time, we will take a look at that. You know, that’s actually the easiest of all things, if you look, cause it’s such a big percentage,” he continued.

The White House, and the President, have never disavowed this statement.



President Trump may not realize that before Medicare, only half of our nation’s seniors had health insurance. He may not need Social Security, but one in every four households rely on it to cover daily expenses. The typical Social Security benefit received by a retired worker in the United States was a modest \$16,656 in 2017 — but without that income, the poverty rate for people over the age of 65 would skyrocket from 9 to 40 percent!

Social Security also fuels our economy, contributing more than \$800 billion each year and helped keep our economy going during the COVID-19 economic crisis.

President Trump was very clear about cutting Medicare and Social Security if he is re-elected. If we want Medicare and Social Security to remain a bedrock of retirement security for current and future retirees, we must make sure everyone knows what he said just a few months ago.

*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](http://www.retiredamericans.org).*

## Killing the Messenger continued from page 8

In addition to the regular mail, it delivers surveys for the critically important 2020 census. It brings masks, sanitizers, toilet paper and other pandemic staples that Americans order online. It accommodates small companies trying to stay afloat by conducting more mail-order business during the crisis.

In March, Trump signed a pandemic stimulus package with money for hospitals, aid for businesses and checks of up to \$1,200 for individual taxpayers. The postal service delivers those checks, which Trump insisted bear his own signature.

Postal workers pay a heavy price for their dedication. Hundreds have been sickened by COVID-19. Dozens died.

By keeping post offices open and the mail flowing, the postal service provides a rare dose of normalcy during the pandemic.

And the agency’s importance is growing. Come November, American democracy may depend on it.

More and more Americans want the federal government to make mail-in balloting a universal option because they fear catching the coronavirus at polling places.

They worry about standing in lines when public health experts stress the need for social distancing. They don’t want to touch the door handles at polling places or push buttons on voting machines, knowing the coronavirus can live on surfaces.

Boone says nothing will stop him from voting on Nov. 3. He’ll go to the polls if he must but would feel more comfortable casting his ballot by mail for the first time since his Navy days nearly seven decades ago.

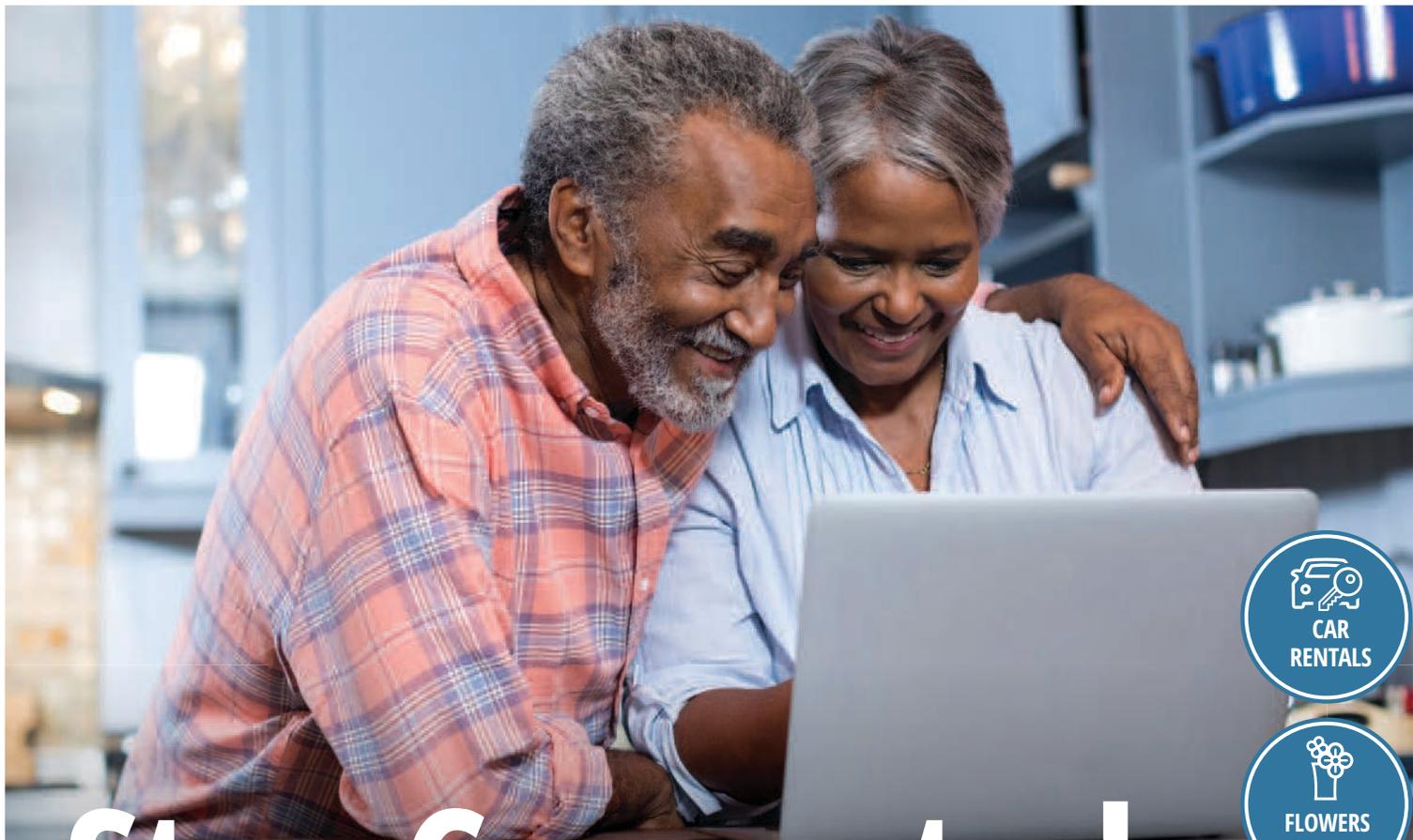
It isn’t just voters who are concerned. Some states fear they’ll have a difficult time finding poll workers, who are predominately elderly.

Only if Americans have the option of voting by mail can the nation ensure a viable turnout in a critically important election. That means saving the postal service.

Right now, Trump is among a minority of Americans who fail to see the postal service for the bargain it is. “I’d be lost without it,” Harkin said.



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