Empowered Women Empower Women
District 11 conference spreads message of inclusion.

Empowered women empower women. This was the theme of the District 11 Women of Steel Conference in Altoona, Iowa, where 56 sisters from across the district gathered for a weekend of educational courses, informative speeches, fellowship and support.

“The message was for our sisters to know there is a place for them in our Union, to provide them with education and begin the networking process between the sisters from all sectors within our nine states,” said Cathy Drummond, the district’s Women of Steel coordinator.

District 11 Director Emil Ramirez in his closing speech to the delegates said that the Union is a place where everyone should feel welcome and have the opportunity to work for a better life. He said he’d like to see more diversity at all levels of the Union.

“We need to do better at making sure our leadership reflects who we are: regardless of your gender, age, race, sexuality or anything else. There is room for everyone in our Union and we are truly stronger together,” he said.

Let’s Hear from YOU!

USW@Work is published four times a year and we need the submissions for the Fall 2018 issue by October 1, 2018. Please submit them to D11news@usw.org. Also include a telephone number or active e-mail address in case we need additional information. We will try to include all submissions and we reserve the right to edit information in order to fit the allocated space.

CIVIL RIGHTS
David Rizzuto
USW District 11 Civil and Human Rights Coordinator
515-953-0783 office
515-953-0786 fax
515-490-1277 cell
drizzuto@usw.org

EDUCATION COORDINATORS
Brian Ecker
becker@usw.org
Ron Wilkey
rwilkey@usw.org

NEXT GENERATION
For information on Next Generation, please contact the District 11 office at 612-623-8045.

RAPID RESPONSE
Bob Ryan
USW District 11 Rapid Response Coordinator
3433 Broadway Street NE
Suite 315
Minneapolis, MN 55413
612-623-8003 office
612-331-4266 fax
ryan@usw.org

SOAR
Bonnie Carey
USW District 11 SOAR Coordinator
Bettenfeld, IA 52722
309-721-7908 cell
bicarey_55@yahoo.com

WOMEN OF STEEL
Cathy Drummond
USW District 11
Women of Steel Coordinator
415 Jones Street
Eveleth, MN 55734
218-744-2757 office
218-744-7926 fax
cdrumm@usw.org

ORGANIZING
For information on Organizing, please contact the District 11 office at 612-623-8045.

© Copyright 2018 by District 11 United Steelworkers, AFL-CIO-CLC. All rights reserved.
The USW District 11 MINK Education Institute, which took place from June 3-8, 2018, at Lodge of the Four Seasons, was once again a huge success.

154 members from Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas took part in week-long, union-focused education and training.

The highlight of the week was a mock arbitration case, where fourth-year participants actively presented the management and union sides of the dispute.

No surprise here, but the union won!

Other highlights of the week were USW District 11 Director Emil Ramirez’s overview about the district and presentations that included Trump economics, legislative issues, an NLRB update, and for the Missouri members, an update on the Right to Work/Proposition-A vote in August.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend next year’s MINK, which is scheduled for June 2-7, 2019.
In District 11, we have always stressed the importance of offering education to our members.

At the just-completed tenth USW District 11 conference held in Altoona, Iowa, the delegates got updates on many important issues from a number of presenters and were able to hear comments from USW International Secretary Treasurer Stan Johnson.

We also heard from our friends at the Alliance for American Manufacturing (AAM), who reported progress on their one goal—strengthening American manufacturing and therefore our nation’s economic and national security.

Representatives from the BlueGreen Alliance discussed the history of how the BGA and our union have worked together over the years to find ways to solve our environmental challenges in ways that create and maintain quality jobs and build a stronger, fairer economy.

The delegates got a better understanding of how oil bargaining in our union, for our refineries, takes place and how we target one company in the industry that serves as a pattern.

Conference delegates received an overview of the USW Emergency Response Team (ERT) program and talked about why these services are so important for our members and families when they need it most. District 11 has the most trained ERT qualified members who go to accident sites when called upon by the USW Health, Safety and Environment Department.

District 11 truly tries to provide educational opportunities throughout the year for our members and at the conferences we hold. This year’s district conference was no different.

One workshop offered to our delegates was focused on “Building Power” within our local unions and was presented by staff from the USW Strategic Campaigns Department.

The USW New Media team presented a workshop about using technology-driven media to our advantage and the different ways to communicate electronically with our members.

Other topics covered in our workshops included labor law and how federal and state level attacks on unions and anti-labor legislation undermines our ability to provide a strong voice for workers and a class about internal organizing in open shops where we discussed tactics to close the ranks within our local unions.

Also during the conference, we had the opportunity to recognize retirees and active members who participated in strikes at Firestone (1994-1995) and Titan Tire (1998-2001).

Members of USW Local 310L hosted the delegates and guests to a cookout at their union hall one evening, and we again say thank you to President Steve Vonk and his membership for their hospitality and solidarity.

As always, we are looking forward to our next opportunity to communicate, interact and learn with all of you.
Stanley, “Stan” Daniels, 71, of Hibbing, Minn., died Tuesday May 29, 2018 in his home surrounded by family following a courageous battle with cancer.

Stan started his career at Eveleth Taconite Company as a millwright. He served in several positions as a member of USW 6860 and was elected President of local 6860 where he served several terms. He was promoted to the United Steelworkers International Union as the first Rapid Response Coordinator for District 11 and held that position until his retirement.

Stan served on the board of the Minnesota AFL-CIO and served on several labor positions. He was a Vietnam veteran, a member of the Loyal Order of the Moose and Life Time Member of the VFW.

Stan loved the outdoors and spending time with his children and grandchildren. He also loved spending time out at the hunting shack whenever he could.

Inaugural Health Care Workers Council Conference

This year’s conference was the largest the USW Health Care Workers Council has ever had and the first since Resolution 23, designed to increase participation in the council, passed at the 2017 International Convention.

The District 11 delegation made contacts and built relationships with local units within the district and throughout the U.S., Canada and Caribbean.

Delegates attended classes that provided information about workplace violence, how to perform research and collect data on employers, improving communications with our members, tools for organizing, instructions for new employee orientation and more.

After the conference, the District 11 Health Care Workers Council held its first conference call with local presidents, Director Emil Ramirez, Assistant Director John Rebrovich and staff.

Sharing information is an important tool for success and forms our foundation to move forward and continue to grow our network by opening new lines of communication.

Rapid Response Conference

The USW’s annual Rapid Response Legislative Conference held in Washington, D.C., from May 21-23, 2018, was a huge success! District 11 was represented by 67 members and staff from 7 of our nine states joining nearly 700 total participants.

We met with our elected members of the Senate and House of Representatives and discussed the issues of concern to our members, including legislation such as the WAGE Act, The PRINT Act and the Workplace Democracy Act. We also discussed retirement security and ways to strengthen the multiemployer pension plans.

Gov. Mark Dayton of Minnesota was at the conference, where he received a Wellstone award for his never ending support of the USW and our families. Participants attended workshops covering a wide variety of subjects and topics.

Meeting with Senator Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota

Meeting with Representative Keith Ellison of Minnesota

The 2019 conference will be held in October in Washington, D.C., so mark your calendar!

REMEMBERING

STAN DANIELS

Stanley, “Stan” Daniels, 71, of Hibbing, Minn., died Tuesday May 29, 2018 in his home surrounded by family following a courageous battle with cancer.

Stan started his career at Eveleth Taconite Company as a millwright. He served in several position as a member of USW 6860 and was elected President of local 6860 where he served several terms. He was promoted to the United Steelworkers International Union as the first Rapid Response Coordinator for District 11 and held that position until his retirement.

Stan served on the board of the Minnesota AFL-CIO and served on several labor positions. He was a Vietnam veteran, a member of the Loyal Order of the Moose and Life Time Member of the VFW.

Stan loved the outdoors and spending time with his children and grandchildren. He also loved spending time out at the hunting shack whenever he could.