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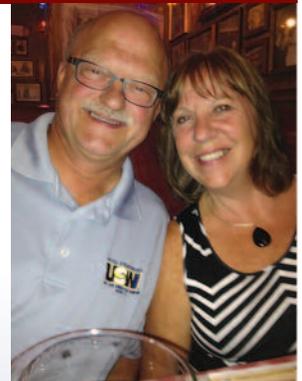


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## Staff Retirement John Rebrovich

Retiring after more than 45 years as a Steelworker and 19 on the staff of the international union, Assistant to the Director John Rebrovich and his wife Patti are going to take the time to enjoy their family. They plan to spend a “lot” of time attending their seven grandchildren’s sporting events. Rebrovich also plans to do a lot of fishing and outdoor activities. We would like to thank John for all of his years of hard work and dedication to our union and labor movement.

**Congratulations and enjoy your retirement!**



## Let's Hear from YOU!

USW@Work is published four times a year and we need the submissions for the Spring 2019 issue by April 15, 2019. Please submit them to [D11news@usw.org](mailto: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.

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# USW REPORTER

## DISTRICT 11

# 2018 Jefferson Award Winner

Lana Hiltbrunner *Local Union 9460-03*



JEFFERSON  
AWARDS  
FOUNDATION



Live for today,  
not for tomorrow.

Jeremy Rush Hiltbrunner

The Eleventh Annual Jeremy Rush Hiltbrunner Cystic Fibrosis Walleye Fishing Tournament will take place on his birthday, May 18, 2019, in Ely, Minnesota. Jeremy was diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis when he was only six months old and lived until he was 27 years old.

Jeremy's motto was, "Live for today, not for tomorrow."

He loved fishing, the New York Yankees and riding his motorcycle. To honor his memory, his father, Michael, and step-mother, Lana, have hosted an annual walleye tournament.

All money collected goes to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of Minnesota. Michael and Lana strive every day to bring awareness and education about Cystic Fibrosis with the ultimate goal of someday finding a cure.

Through their activism, they have brought awareness to the public by sharing their story through social media, newspapers and television interviews. Their tireless efforts and more than 1,000 hours of work over the course of a decade have raised more than \$100,000 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of Minnesota.

This allows the organization to fund important research and provide assistance to the people and families affected by Cystic Fibrosis, all while raising awareness about the disease.

Lana is currently a unit president for Local Union 9460-03. She has been a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) at the Essentia Health Ely Clinic since 2008, and she is active within her local, serving on the negotiating and Women of Steel committees.

*A \$500 donation from the United Steelworkers has been presented to Lana for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. In addition District 11 matched that with a second \$500 donation.*

## 2019 UPCOMING EVENTS

**Charley Richardson  
Educational Institutes:**

▶ **MINK:** June 2-7

▶ **Ruttger's:** September 15-20



## THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Emil Ramirez, District 11 Director

### Moving Forward in 2019

First of all, I want to use this opportunity to thank Assistant to the Director John Rebrovich for his service to our union.

With his forty-five years as a member of the United Steelworkers, including more than 19 years serving on the staff of District 11, he did a fantastic job. John was an example to all of us in the way he was able to get along with people while standing his ground during bargaining over issues critical for our members and their families. I'd like to personally thank John for all his valuable help and wish him a long, happy and wonderful retirement.

Next, I'd like to welcome, our new Assistant to the Director, Cathy Drummond. Cathy has served on the District 11 staff for nearly 19 years. Her leadership in guiding our District 11 Women of Steel program to include more members is appreciated. Her knowledge of the health care industry has been instrumental in helping us create the USW Health Care Workers Council. I'd like all of you to know that Cathy is the first woman in our union to serve as an Assistant to the Director.

In this new year of 2019, we are faced with many changes and challenges. Currently, our oil industry local unions are in negotiations. With nine refineries and multiple pipelines within District 11, the USW is committed to Safety First at all of the locations. We can negotiate wage increases and great benefits, but safety must be a top priority.

Later this spring, the Arconic master agreement covering two thousand members in Davenport, Iowa, will expire. We have already started preparing for those negotiations, and I am confident that our local union solidarity in Davenport and throughout the other Arconic locations will prevail.

An important mining negotiation will also be taking place this spring at our USW represented Sibayne-Stillwater mine in Columbus, Montana, where more than nine-hundred members work, mining non-ferrous metals like palladium and platinum.

Following up on the 2018 elections, USW supported candidates were successful throughout the district.

Just to mention a couple of successes, thanks to all the members who volunteered in our 2018 political program. We helped reelect the two U.S. Senators in Minnesota and worker friendly governors in Minnesota and Kansas.

## Steelworkers Celebrate Walz's Inauguration *By Bob Ryan*

**Tim Walz was sworn in as the 41st Governor of Minnesota on Jan. 7, 2019, and the state could not have elected a better person for working families.**

Before being elected governor, Walz represented Minnesota's 1st Congressional District in the U.S. House of

Representatives for six terms. Prior to that, he was a teacher and a proud union member.

Also sworn in were Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan, Attorney General Keith Ellison, Secretary of State Steve Simon and State Auditor Julie Blaha, who is also a union member and a good friend of the Steelworkers.

District 11 Director Emil Ramirez, Assistant to the Director John Rebrovich and I attended the ceremony in St. Paul.

On Saturday, Jan. 12, Cathy Drummond and her husband, Jack; John Rebrovich and his wife, Patti; my wife Sherri and I, attended the inaugural celebration in Minneapolis, where we met with Senator Tina Smith and other elected officials in attendance.

Several thousand people attended the inauguration, all of whom are looking forward to the next four years with a union member who we helped elect as the Governor of Minnesota.



**L to R: John Rebrovich, Patti Rebrovich, Governor Tim Walz, Sheri Ryan, Bob Ryan, Cathy Drummond, Jack Drummond**



## Local 444L Women of Steel Raise Funds for Quilting Warriors

Words can't express the generosity of nine ladies from Nauvoo! In November 2018, the USW Local 444L Women of Steel Committee (WOS) in Keokuk, Iowa, donated \$2,200 to the Quilting for Warriors sewing club. The money was raised from t-shirt and hoodie sales that the WOS Committee conducted during the month of November.

The Quilting Warriors are a group of dedicated ladies who make quilts for wounded soldiers hospitalized in Landstuhl, Germany. The soldiers are severely wounded, first being treated in Germany and then flown back to the United States for further medical treatment.

The nine ladies involved are Em Stevenson (who recently turned 90 years old), Mary Scheetz, Ann Wilkens, Hannelore Moffitt, Jyl Sly, Peggy Siegfried, Karen Ourth, Julie Johnson and Rose Pollpeter. They have dedicated many hours making beautiful red, white, and blue quilts to be sent as part of the USO to the injured.

Some of the ladies have been quilting together for over 30 years. Julie Johnson had moved away from Nauvoo and spent the last 29 years in Florida. While living there she was introduced to the USO Service.

Julie's son-in-law is in the Army, making this an issue very close to her heart. Upon relocating back home to the Nauvoo area, she introduced the Quilting Warriors to the USO Quilts.

The ladies gather on Thursdays for their weekly quilting. They have family members and local town people who will drop in on sewing days to donate money to them, but most of the cost comes from their own pockets.

It costs \$40 to make a quilt and \$10 to mail it. With all the Warriors do they have special touches they add to personalize each quilt for the soldier. A corner of each quilt has a hand



embroidered dedication and special note to that soldier.

All the love and dedication given to each quilt is beyond measure. These quilts are wrapped around the soldiers to help keep them warm on their flight home. It is said the plane ride home can be very drafty, and it shows them the love and respect that they so truly deserve.

Anyone who would like to visit with these ladies can find them most Thursday mornings at the Knights of Columbus Hall building in Nauvoo, Illinois. Donations of money or supplies are greatly appreciated.

## 2019 Collective Bargaining Conference

The District 11 Collective Bargaining Conference was held from Jan. 15-17, 2019, in Bloomington, Minnesota. About 81 delegates from throughout the district were provided with the tools necessary to conduct local contract bargaining in the upcoming year.

The curriculum included courses in collective bargaining law and bargaining committee team training as well as workshops on pensions and health insurance.

Delegates learned about membership mobilization, media relations and interest-based bargaining. The conference concluded with the delegates participating in a mock negotiation.

There was a reception with District 11 Director Emil Ramirez giving a state of the district address.