Let’s Hear from YOU! USW@Work is published four times a year and we need the submissions for the Winter 2020 issue by January 31, 2020. 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.

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USW Local 105 Makes a Difference in Quad City
“Unity in the Community” Connects People and Resources

When USW Local 105 member Don Mayes attended the 2019 USW Civil and Human Rights Conference in Minneapolis, he did not know how deeply it would impact him personally.

Mayes returned from the conference energized and with an idea and desire of what he could do to help those in need in the Quad City region. Thus, Unity in the Community was born.

With a clear idea, he spent time laying the groundwork and building a network of contacts from area homeless shelters, food banks and the MLK Center before he asked his local union for support.

Mayes and Local 105 Civil and Human Rights Coordinator Roy Hutt gained the support of their local for a day of caring and sharing for those in need and began reaching out to other local unions through the AFL-CIO.

Unity in the Community would take place on Sept. 28, 2019, with three goals in mind: providing a meal for the hungry, providing clothing for those who need it and connecting people with important services provided by local agencies and organizations.

With participation from Transition Mental Health, the Scott County Health Department and the Davenport Civil Rights Commission and support from union brothers and sisters from the UAW, CWA and UFCW, Mayes and Local 105 achieved their goals and more than 50 people attended Unity in the Community.

All of the remaining food and clothing were donated to Humility of Mary Homeless Shelter.

Mayes hopes to continue growing Unity in the Community in the future, and offers special thanks to USW 105 members Lee Shaffer, Amber Hartford and grill master Scott Harris for their assistance.
As I travel throughout District 11 and visit with USW members, I sense an excitement about how our union is stepping up education opportunities that are offered to our local unions.

This year with the help of the USW Health, Safety and Environment Department, District 11 has started offering the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 10-hour training in locations throughout the District.

The plan is to offer more OSHA training, including the OSHA 30-hour training, along with instituting Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) training for our members that work in the mining industry in 2020.

Many of our members have attended our MINK and Ruttger’s Education Conferences which are our yearly education conference for our rank and file members. These two conferences educate an average of 225 members each year.

Along with our yearly Collective Bargaining Conference, held each January, to which we invite local unions who have upcoming negotiations, our union is committed to offering many education classes to our local unions in District 11.

If your local union is interested in further education, please contact your staff representative, and we’ll make every effort to accommodate your request. When a decision is made to offer an education training class to our members, we try to have it at a location where other local unions in a region within the District can participate.

I firmly believe that education of our members is the equalizer in making sure we are negotiating good contracts and enforcing them properly.

WOS Wraps Up 2019 Meetings

We have been busy wrapping up the 2019 Women’s Council biannual meetings. In August, Local 1938 hosted the WI’MN-KOTA (MN, WI, ND & SD) meeting where we toured the US Steel Minntac mine and had guest speakers from the Minnesota AFL-CIO. Local 310L hosted our Iowa meeting in October. The sisters toured the State Historical Museum of Iowa and then spent the afternoon sharing their committee’s activities and learning more about the WOS program. Local 348 will be hosting the next MoKan (MO, KS & NE) on November 14 in Kansas City. It will be an exciting 2020 as plans are underway for the 8th District 11 Women’s Conference… more details to come!
Eighty-six local union officers, committee members and activists from Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota and Wyoming, with 20 additional instructors and presenters, participated in the fifth-annual Charley Richardson Fall Educational Institute at Rutgers Bay Lake Lodge in Deerwood, Minn., from Sept. 15-20, 2019.

The institute consists of courses designed to build skills and educate USW officers and activists over a four-year period. The general session topics covered presentations about USW programs which support our members and their families.

First-year courses included Steelworker History, Basic Contract Administration & Grievance Handling Communications and Public Speaking.

Second-year courses offered Using Safety & Health To Build Your Local Union, Confronting Work Place Change, Effective Communications and Continuous Bargaining.

Third-year courses featured USW Constitution & Local Union By-Laws, Duties of Local Union Officers, FMLA/NLRB Information, Building Power and Research Methods for Bargaining.

Fourth-year students focused on the arbitration process and studied, trained and presented an actual case. The students presented their case in a mock hearing with an independent arbiter, in front of all students during the Friday closing session.

We hope your local will participate in next year’s Charley Richardson Fall Educational Institute scheduled for Sept. 13-18, 2020. Be sure to watch for the call letter and registration form, which will be mailed to your local union president and recording secretary in April.