Local 444L WOS Receives 2019 Jefferson Award

The USW Local 444L Women of Steel received a 2019 Jefferson Award for their work to support children, veterans and people in need as well as helping other union members. We are proud to recognize their dedication to their community, their local and our union as a whole.

Some projects Local 444 Women of Steel either assisted or organized themselves:

- Easter Egg Hunt for children with special needs
- Annual bake sale and raffle to purchase adult bikes for a local sober-living house
- Backpack drive for foster kids and veterans
- Holiday “Angel Giving Tree”
- Collection for their union sister who was seriously injured on the job
- Fundraiser for Quilting for Warriors
- Food drive that donated 5,549 items and $1,200 to five pantries

Congratulations and thank you for all of your hard work!

Let’s Hear from YOU!

USW@Work is published four times a year and we need the submissions for the Spring 2020 issue by April 15, 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.

GET INVOLVED

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.

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
cdrummond@usw.org

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
Bettenhof, IA 52722
309-721-7908 cell
bonnie.carey@gmail.com

WOS COUNCIL COORDINATORS
Christina Lehman—Iowa
4866 NE 39th Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50317
515-201-6134 cell
cnapp310@hotmail.com

Talina McClure—MOKAN
33212 Koala Circle
Excelsior Springs, MO 64024
816-877-6484
totalプリンセス1980@yahoo.com

Marketa Anderson—WWM-KOTA
502 SW 8th Avenue
Chisholm, MN 55719
218-403-0219
m.manderson@msn.com

Tina Fife—WY/MT
PO Box 553
Lyman, WY 82937
307-747-4672
tifife78@gmail.com

© Copyright 2020 by District 11 United Steelworkers, AFL-CIO-CLC. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the written consent of District 11.
The Next Generation

The USW held its first-ever Next Generation Conference from November 18-21, 2019, at the Westin Hotel in Pittsburgh.

It included more than 35 workshops, which included Global Youth Exchange, Mass Incarceration, LGBTQ+, and “You Are the Union.”

During the general sessions, there were several exciting and emotional orations that included Xavier Collier, who lost his hand in a workplace accident and turned his grief and frustration into constructive unionism.

Executive Director of the Union Veterans Council Will Attig explained that throughout all his combat deployments, nothing was more difficult than returning home jobless.

The union helped him find a job with dignity and motivated him to fight to pass veteran friendly legislation.

Over 900 young USW members took their high energy from the conference to participate in a community action day on helping out those in need in the Pittsburgh area, partnering with the Boys and Girls Club, Center for Hope, Nazareth Prep, and Multiplying Good, among others.

USW Next Generation will become the future of our union, and we know from the energy of this conference that the USW will remain strong.
Let Your Voice Be Heard

Many times, we talk about making sure our voices are heard. Whether it’s at a political rally, a local union meeting, an organizing drive or during negotiations for a collective bargaining agreement, the USW takes its mission to make our voices heard anywhere and everywhere we can.

Last month, each member should have received a special issue of USW@Work, where our union has outlined six core issues that are important to our members.

If a candidate seeking a federal office wants our support in the 2020 election, they will need to fill out and return our questionnaire.

At the top of the list is trade because if you work in a manufacturing or mining job in the United States, your job is threatened by bad trade deals.

All across USW District 11, we have seen manufacturing jobs affected in the rubber, steel and aluminum sectors, and mining locals have also suffered due to unfair dumping from countries that have few, if any, labor laws or environmental regulations.

In no particular order, the other five core issues are: Health care; Collective Bargaining; Domestic Issues; Safety and Health; and Retirement Security.

We need expand access to affordable healthcare as too many citizens either cannot afford insurance or cannot afford to get sick because of high deductibles and out of pocket expenses.

With the passage of the PRO Act during the first week of February, the House of Representatives is off to a great start making sure we have a fair playing field to organize the unorganized, but will the Senate vote on the bill or it will die with no action?

In this issue of The Reporter we have listed locations, dates and times of Town Hall meetings we will be holding throughout the District. The purpose of these meetings is to hear from you, the members, on these important issues before we make any decisions to endorse or support candidates.

We are also asking our members to participate in a survey to better gauge where you stand on important issues. Take the survey at uswvoices.org.

I look forward to seeing you at one of the Town Hall meetings in March and April, so make sure to let your voice be heard!

Collective Bargaining Conference

The goal of the conference was to empower and educate members whose contracts are expiring in the next 12 months and who serve on their local union’s negotiating committee.

The three-day training touched on collective bargaining law and bargaining committee training, with individual workshops focusing on bargaining pensions and health insurance, the union’s Building Power program, and research methods. The conference highlight was a mock bargaining exercise, where members got hands-on experience with negotiations.
The most important work we do as a union involves bargaining and enforcing good contracts to secure fair wages, dependable benefits, and safe working conditions. However, whether we like it or not, workplace health and safety, wage and overtime regulations, retirement security, even our right to organize and bargain collectively, are all tied to local, state, and federal laws and the people making them.

As we move into 2020, we want to hear about the issues that matter most to you. That’s why we’re holding a series of town hall meetings across the country. We’ll have a conversation about your priorities and share some of our union’s work to impact government decisions.

If you have any questions, please contact the USW District 11 office at 612-623-8045.