



MICHAEL BOLTON, Director

# UNITED STEELWORKERS



UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS  
DISTRICT 2

# NEWS

NOVEMBER 1, 2011 • VOLUME 1, ISSUE 7

## Upcoming D2 Events

### PRESIDENTS MEETINGS

- **November 01, 2011**  
Ronn Hall (Local 4950 Hall)  
1206 Baldwin Street, Negaunee, MI
- **November 08, 2011**  
Teamsters Local 7 Hall  
3330 Miller Road, Kalamazoo, MI
- **November 09, 2011**  
USW Local 12075 Hall  
3510 James Savage Road, Midland, MI
- **November 10, 2011**  
USW Dist. 2 Southern Michigan Sub-Office  
13233 Hancock Drive, Taylor, MI
- **November 15, 2011**  
Milwaukee Area Labor Council Building  
633 S. Hawley Road, Milwaukee, WI
- **November 16, 2011**  
Eau Claire Labor Temple  
2233 Birch Street, Eau Claire, WI
- **November 17, 2011**  
Lucky Dogz—Labor Temple  
157 S. Green Bay Road, Neenah, WI

### WOMEN OF STEEL DECEMBER MEETINGS

- **December 5, 2011**  
Western Area Council  
USW Local 2-1010 Hall  
718 Shoppers Lane, Kalamazoo, MI
- **December 6, 2011**  
Detroit Area Council  
USW Dist. 2 Southern Michigan Sub-Office  
13233 Hancock Drive, Taylor, MI
- **December 7, 2011**  
Central Area Council  
USW Local 12075 Hall  
3510 James Savage Road, Midland, MI
- **December 8, 2011**  
Northern Area Council  
Inverness Township Hall  
734 W. VFW Road, Cheboygan, MI
- **December 9, 2011**  
Northwestern Area Council  
Civic Club  
183 9th Street, Manistee, MI

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MICHAEL BOLTON, Director  
1244A Midway Rd., Menasha, WI 54952  
(920) 722-7630

Contributors to this issue include:  
Mike Pyne, Roxann Dean, Lori Gutekunst,  
Tammy Duncan and Julie Stein

Articles and photos are welcome  
and should be sent to:

Art Kroll, Editor, District 2 News  
13233 Hancock Drive, Taylor, MI 48180  
d2@usw.org • (734) 374-8200

Nov. 21, 2011, is the deadline for  
submissions for the next issue.

## Director Bolton wins Award while Others are Taught Valuable Lessons!

Director Michael Bolton receives the 2011 Paul Wellstone Citizen Leadership Award



Washington D.C. — 2011 Paul Wellstone Citizen Leadership Award presented to District 2 Director Michael Bolton from the Campaign for America's Future.

### Campaign for America's Future presents Paul Wellstone Award

**Editor's Note:** On Tuesday, October 4, 2011, at the "Take Back the American Dream" Conference held in Washington D.C., the Campaign for America's Future; Institute Of America's Future bestowed their prestigious "Paul Wellstone Citizen Leadership Award" to USW District 2 Director Michael Bolton. This esteemed award is presented annually to the person who displays outstanding leadership.

The following story was written by USW Political Coordinator Mike Pyne who was not only there during the presentation, but is and has been involved in the WI labor movement upraising. . .

The time we'd been waiting for, and hoped would never come, had arrived blowing in like a cold Wisconsin wind, the kind that chills you to the bone. This, however, was worse than anyone could imagine. Working people were about to embark on the most horrendous affronts to their freedoms of association that had ever come their way.

Last November, nearly 350,000 Wisconsin people who voted in the 2008 presidential election decided the election for Governor wasn't important enough to bother with and stayed home; a serious mistake, one that will take a long, long time to recover from.

If you're a worker in Wisconsin, especially a public worker or school teacher, I don't have to tell you the rest of this story. You've lived the nightmare of Scott Walker's revenge and his get-even attitude with the public sector unions that represent these fine people.

Disguised as the way to close an imaginary shortfall in the state budget, Governor Walker decided to demonize the very people that make their living delivering much needed state services to the residents of Wisconsin.

Sunday, February 13, was indeed very cold, but in Madison there were over 2000 students and their faculty advisors that weren't about to take what the Governor was dishing out without a fight. And, fight we have!

From that very first day, USW District 2 Director Michael Bolton has been committed to reversing this callous attempt to dismantle the labor movement in Wisconsin.

We were there as the momentum grew from 2000 to 8000 to 30,000 to 50,000. But this was only the beginning. On February 26, some 145,000 to 165,000 people were at the State Capitol to tell Governor Walker he's wrong for what he's doing here in Wisconsin.

Again, when others thought we did all we could, we proved we only hit our stride. The Governor and his cronies in the legislature initiated a recall of 8 of our democratic Senators that left the comfort of their homes to take up our fight and slow the process of passing and implementing this ill conceived legislation, a bold move that could have put their careers in jeopardy.

After nearly breaking all the rules that are designed to protect voters, from fraudulent gathering of signatures, the republicans were only able to garner enough valid signatures in 3 democratic districts. This set off a firestorm in the State where the progressive movement was born, and the Steelworkers, along with others, began our own effort to recall some of the rubber stamp Senators that were following the direction of Scott Walker.

After 9 recall elections, where such shenanigans as running fake democrats were employed by the Republicans, we won 2 additional seats in the State Senate bringing the number of worker-friendly Senators to 16, just 1 short of a majority. All this while not losing any incumbent worker-friendly democrats to their recall efforts.

We in District 2 celebrate this award that was so rightfully bestowed upon our leader and friend, Michael Bolton. However, he asks that you celebrate in a fashion that will contribute to the growth of a much greater gift, the American labor movement, for the work of the Steelworkers and the building of a threatened labor movement will never end.

### An email message worth sharing!

TO: Sue Browne, BGA Regional Program Manager  
FROM: Roxann Dean, President USW Local Union 998

**Hey Sue:** It was great meeting up with you at Dan Benishek's Gaylord office Tuesday and speaking with his staff about Green Energy and creating good jobs for the future. Later that evening, I also participated in the Cheboygan County Master Plan meeting held at the school where I work. Local citizens who work and live in the County were invited to participate in brainstorming ideas to develop a land use and an economic plan for the next 10 - 20 years.

I thought this was a great opportunity to present the Jobs 21 plan. I was the facilitator for a break out group interested in Green Energy and good jobs. Our task was to take 30 minutes and write down our ideas and bring them back to the main group (approx. 100 people).

Well, little did I know there were a number of Tea Party yahoos in my group who were trying to push their agenda instead of coming up with ideas; they were loud and rudely interrupting those trying to speak.

As the leader of this group, I politely began telling them we needed to keep to task, but then they started ranting about we need to be a Right-to-Work State, bust unions and have no taxes.

Well, let me tell you, they really didn't know who they had tied into!! I told them take a good look, "I AM THE UNION", and proudly so. I very thoroughly explained the true

meaning of Right-to-Work (for less!) and asked them if they could raise their families on a minimum wage paycheck? They reluctantly admitted, they could not!

These type people are so far right radical, they don't even make sense. But, a bright spot to the evening was when the Cheboygan County Master Planning team thanked me for standing up to this group. As I think about it now (a couple days later), maybe this is the way to educate our communities by getting more involved in these county planning meetings and show our support for Green Energy jobs. — Roxann

### D2 SUB-DISTRICT AREA FALL LEADERSHIP TRAINING



Neenah, WI — Instructor Steve Donovan moves around the classroom of nearly 100 area local union members attending the "Continuous Bargaining" course.

Over 200 District 2 Members attended this year's Fall Leadership Training held in Neenah, WI; Oconomowoc, WI; River Rouge, MI; and Midland, MI.

This Fall's training gave Local Union officers and members the opportunity to further develop their skills and education so they can build a stronger Local Union and better serve the members they represent.

The first day started at 1:00 pm and included a segment on labor law updates. The law firms of Previant, Goldberg, Uelmen, Gratz, Miller & Brueggeman did the Wisconsin locations and Legghio & Israel did the labor law updates in Michigan. They discussed legal issues that affect workers, FMLA, ADA and Worker's Compensation, along with answering questions from the attendees.

The second day consisted of a full day of "Continuous Bargaining" training. Bargaining once every few years over the terms and conditions of union members' employment does not provide sufficient protection in a workplace that is rapidly changing with new technology, new forms of work organization and a wide variety of involvement/quality programs, which can seriously undermine, or even bypass, contract protections written for an earlier time. Continuous Bargaining is an ongoing process that deals with the ever changing workplace.



River Rouge, MI — LU 2-1063 Members (L-R) Steven Harmon, Kimmie Tyler, Shatae Marshall and Marie Hennessy work together on a training exercise.