



MICHAEL H. BOLTON, DIRECTOR

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Southern MI Sub-District Office
20600 Eureka Road, Suite 300
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USW District 2 Council Steering Committee

The District 2 Council By-Laws established a District 2 Council Steering Committee comprised of a rank and file structure. It was set up to assist in the following:

- Development of agenda for Council Conference.
- Planning of the District Council Conference Educational Conferences.
- District 2 strategic planning.
- Determining and assessing educational needs within the District.
- Generating and leading activism and other purposes consistent with the mission and directives of District 2 and the USW.

The elected members of the Steering Committee are listed below by manufacturing sector. If you need to contact a Steering Committee Member, please do so by using the email provided below.

Name	LU#	Sector	Email Address
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is published by the
**United Steelworkers District 2
AFL-CIO-CLC**

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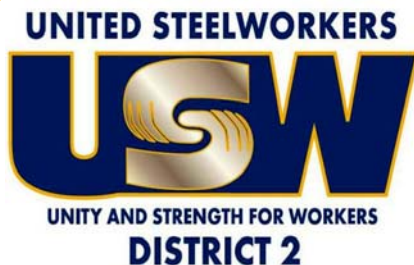
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**Articles and photos are welcome and
should be sent:**

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May 19, 2019, is the deadline for
submissions for the next issue.



NEWS

APRIL 2019 • VOLUME 9, ISSUE 4, PAGE 1

Who is Really Writing all this Bad Legislation - *It's Not Who You Think!*

A Message from Michael Bolton



Earlier this month our District held its Biennial Legislative Conference in Michigan City, Indiana. While our Union does a lot of important work, one of the most important is involvement in the legislative process. When you think about it, every right that we, as Union members, enjoy was given to us through the legislative process; and, as we have seen in recent years, those same rights can be legislated away. As if the attacks on the labor movement over the last nine years weren't example enough of why we need to be engaged in legislation, I offer the following to emphasize that need.

We elect our state and federal representatives to write and support laws that will benefit voters in their districts. But, according to a two-year study conducted by *USA Today*, The Arizona Republic and Center for Public Integrity politicians aren't living up to that expectation. Instead, since the Republican Revolution of 2010, legislators are relying upon think tanks and corporations to write the laws for them. The study found that during the past eight years, at least 10,000 bills have been introduced that were carbon copies of bills put forth in other states or Washington. Of those, 2,100 were signed into law.

The bills, referred to as "model laws", are written by lobbyists for corporations or other special interests and are study grouped to gage how voters will react to them. The writers go through great pain to ensure the bills are presented in the most voter-friendly way; and, again, focus groups measure if the issue is registering positively with the electorate. In most cases, the bills sound like they are protecting people from a real problem when, in fact, they actually are a benefit to the corporation introducing the measure.

A recent example of this legislation was written by the asbestos industry and was introduced in numerous states, including Michigan. Called the "Asbestos Transparency Act", a lawmaker in Colorado who introduced the

bill said he was drawn to the law by its promise to bring more transparency to asbestos claim litigation. "Who isn't for that?" he wondered. However, the bill had nothing to do with openness. Instead, it required workers who contracted the asbestos exposure disease, mesothelioma, to seek monetary damages from an asbestos trust fund. Unfortunately, that process added hurdles for workers and almost guaranteed the process could take over a year to settle. Great news for asbestos producers and their insurers because the typical asbestos cancer patient dies within 12 months of diagnosis. Sure, the family can sue, but for far less money.

That legislation was the brainchild of Nationwide, AIG, Travelers, Hartford and CNA Financial Corp., all insurance companies who currently hold over \$870 million in asbestos claim liability. The bill would have been a gift to the industry. It was defeated by a grassroots movement that included USW District 2 SOAR members. Local 2659 SOAR President, Tony Pascarella, is credited with playing a pivotal role in its loss. According to one of Detroit's leading asbestos attorney's, Pascarella's testimony before a Michigan State House committee put a face on workers affected by asbestos exposure as he explained its impact on victims and their families.

In Wisconsin, a bill was introduced and passed as reforming costly lawsuits against the nursing home industry. Written by the nursing home lobbyists, the bill, among other things, limited pain and suffering compensation for injured nursing home residents to lost time wages. Did you catch that? - Lost time wages. Elderly folks in a nursing home are collecting pensions and Social Security. They don't have a wage to lose. And that became law!

But the folks who write these laws do more than just distribute them to lawmakers. As I said, they market study the legislation and after it is introduced, they provide "expert witnesses" to testify before House and Senate Committees. The "experts" will even write guest editorials in local newspapers and speak before community groups to promote the legislation. Of course, the "expert" works for the industry, but that is disguised by some highbrow title like, "Director of Citizens for

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"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

Did you know?



In 1948, Gaylord Nelson was elected to the Wisconsin State Senate. He remained there until 1958, when he was elected Governor of Wisconsin. He served for four years as Governor, in two two-year terms, before being elected to the Senate in 1962.

He served three consecutive terms as a Senator from 1963 to 1981. In 1963 he convinced President John F. Kennedy to take a national speaking tour to discuss conservation issues.

Sen. Gaylord Nelson founded Earth Day, which began as a teach-in about environmental issues on April 22, 1970.

For more on Earth Day, go to page 8.

MOURN FOR THE DEAD FIGHT FOR THE LIVING

Organize and Mobilize for Safe Jobs
Workers Memorial Day - April 28



The Union Plus Credit Card program.

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NEWS

United Steelworkers District 2
AFL-CIO-CLC

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HAVE YOU BEEN TO DISTRICT 2'S
PAGE ON FACEBOOK?
www.facebook.com/USWDistrict2

A Message from Director Bolton - continued from page 1

Sensible Asbestos Litigation Reform". Yes, the writers do all the work and all the elected sponsors and co-sponsors of the act have to do is sit back and take credit. It's a win-win for the lawmakers and for the corporations. Of course, in most cases, the voters are left holding the dirty end of the stick. Sadly, by the time they realize it, the bill has been signed into law and the lobbyists have moved on to their next payday.

Who are the people writing these copycat laws and pushing their passage? The most active is the American Legislative Exchange Council, or ALEC. ALEC was behind Wisconsin Public Act 10, Michigan and Wisconsin Right to Work legislation and the asbestos laws I talked about above. They also pushed a Michigan legislative scheme to shield Crown Cork and Seal asbestos lawsuit liability.

Another is the Goldwater Institute. The institute is named after former right wing Arizona Senator and presidential candidate, Barry Goldwater. As the name suggests, it is a conservative organization that promotes conservative ideas. Recently, it took on legislation pushed by the Cancer Treatment Centers of America. In short, the Cancer Center was interested in passing legislation that would let terminally ill cancer patients, who were facing certain death, experiment with potentially life saving drugs that had yet to receive FDA approval for treatment. In many ways, this is a perfect example of how the copycat legislative process works. Goldwater took up the cause and began the process by helping to write the legislation. Next, they focus grouped the issue and gave it a name that was an immediate hit with the study group folks. They called it the "Right to Try Act". The message was heart wrenching. Without some form of alternative treatment, cancer patients were certain to die. The least Congress could do is give them a shot at trying medicine that could possibly save their lives.

But there was a catch! Existing law already gave patients that right! This bill was an answer in search of a question. It didn't matter. The Goldwater Institute saw this as an opportunity to chip away at regulations and the Cancer Centers were experiencing a bump in fundraising. Another copycat law win-win. They ran with it anyway.

President Trump got hooked on to the issue because he, "loved the name. From the first day, I loved it." Others must have loved it too because the bill was passed in 41 states and in the U.S. Congress.

Yes, a law that wasn't needed was passed in 41 states. And, after the states took action, Washington passed its version of the copycat law too. That wasn't an accident. It is part of a right wing strategy to force Washington to act on copycat laws. Congress has been stuck in gridlock for as long as any of us can remember. As a result, it doesn't add up as a winning strategy to try to push Congress to act. Instead, lobbyists are turning their efforts to the state level to push their right wing agendas. Like their efforts supporting Right to Work, they are hoping to get enough states to pass model legislation to weaken Unions so Congress will have no option but to pass similar laws.

Who are the corporations that are funding these lobby efforts? AT&T, the Koch Brothers, Exxon/Mobil Oil, Abbot Laboratories, American Express, McDonalds, and charter school advocates National Heritage Academies. According to my unscientific count, over 500 for profit companies are current or former members of ALEC. A like number of not for profit/non-profit and non-government agencies also belong. Each is there to promote the interests of investors and members that usually come at the expense of working class people.

As I mentioned, 10,000 copycats laws have been introduced in the past eight years. The study further reports that over 1 million bills containing similar language

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"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"



2019 District 2 Calendar of Events

JANUARY

- 16 WOS Lobby Day (WI)**
Capitol Building, Room 300 SE, 2 East Main Street • Madison, WI
- 18-21 2019 AFL-CIO Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Civil and Human Rights Conference**
Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Ave Northwest • Washington, DC
- 22 WOS Quarterly Meeting**
USW Local 2-21 Hall, 1201 Sheridan Road • Escanaba, MI

FEBRUARY

- 11 LM Review Session**
USW Local 12075 Hall, 3510 James Savage Road • Midland, MI
- 12 LM Review Session**
Bungalow Inn, 1100 28th Street • Manistee, MI
- 13 LM Review Session**
Teamsters Local 7 Hall, 3330 Miller Road • Kalamazoo, MI
- 14 LM Review Session**
USW District 2 Southern MI Sub-Office, 20600 Eureka Road, Suite 300 • Taylor, MI
- 22 WOS Quarterly Meeting**
American Legion Hall, 327 W. Wisconsin Avenue • Tomahawk, WI
- 25 LM Review Session**
USW Local 2-21 Hall, 1201 Sheridan Road • Escanaba, MI
- 26 LM Review Session**
Kronenwetter Village Hall, 1582 Kronenwetter Drive • Kronenwetter, WI
- 27 LM Review Session**
Lucky Dog's Labor Temple, 157 S. Green Bay Road • Neenah, WI
- 28 LM Review Session**
Milwaukee Labor Council Building, 633 S. Hawley Road • Milwaukee, WI

MARCH

- 13 WOS Quarterly Meeting**
USW Local 2-148 Hall, 1201 Gillingham Road • Neenah, WI
- 20 WOS Quarterly Meeting**
USW Local 12075 Hall, 3510 James Savage Road • Midland, MI
- 22 WOS Quarterly Meeting**
USW Dist. 2 Southern MI Sub-Office, 20600 Eureka Road, Suite 300 • Taylor, MI
- 22 WOS Quarterly Meeting**
Milwaukee Labor Council Building, 633 S. Hawley Road • Milwaukee, WI
- 26 WOS Quarterly Meeting**
Kent Ionia Labor Hall, 918 Benjamin Avenue NE • Grand Rapids, MI
- 27 WOS Quarterly Meeting**
Old Morton Federal Credit Union, 516 Kosciusko • Manistee, MI

APRIL

- 9-10 USW District 2 Legislative Conference**
Blue Chip Casino, Hotel and Spa, 777 Blue Chip Drive • Michigan City, IN
- 15 Presidents Meeting**
Ronn Hall, 1206 Baldwin Avenue • Negaunee, MI
- 16 Presidents Meeting**
Fraternal Order of Eagles, 1104 S. Oak Avenue • Marshfield, WI
- 17 Presidents Meeting**
Lucky Dog's Labor Temple, 157 S. Green Bay Road • Neenah, WI
- 18 Presidents Meeting**
Milwaukee Labor Council Building, 633 S. Hawley Road • Milwaukee, WI
- 26 WOS Quarterly Meeting**
Old Morton Federal Credit Union, 516 Kosciusko • Manistee, MI

MAY

- 1 USW District 2 Lobby Day (Wisconsin)**
Capitol Building (North Wing), 2 East Main Street • Madison, WI
- 5-10 USW District 2 WOS Leadership Development Course Levels I and II**
Landmark Resort, 4929 Landmark Drive • Egg Harbor, WI
- 14 Sub-District Local Union Leadership Training (NMI)**
*Holiday Inn, 810 Cinema Drive • Midland, MI, and
USW Local 12075 Hall, 3510 James Savage Drive • Midland, MI*
- 16 Sub-District Local Union Leadership Training (SMI)**
Village Conference Center • 1645 Commerce Park Drive, Chelsea, MI
- 21 USW District 2 Lobby Day (Michigan)**

MAY continued

- 21 Sub-District Local Union Leadership Training (NWI)**
Red Lion Hotel Paper Valley • 333 West College Avenue, Appleton, WI
- 23 Sub-District Local Union Leadership Training (SWI)**
Four Points by Sheraton • Milwaukee Airport • 5311 South Howell Avenue, Milwaukee, WI

JUNE

- 7 WOS Quarterly Meeting**
Joann Lester Library, 100 Park Street • Nekoosa, WI
- 11 WOS Quarterly Meeting (Central Michigan Area)**
Michigan State AFL-CIO Office, 419 South Washington Square, Suite 200 • Lansing, MI
- 11 Presidents Meeting**
Teamsters Local 7 Hall, 3330 Miller Road • Kalamazoo, MI
- 12 Presidents Meeting**
USW Local 12075 Hall, 3510 James Savage Road • Midland, MI
- 12 WOS Quarterly Meeting**
USW Local 2-148 Hall, 1201 Gillingham Road • Neenah, WI
- 13 Presidents Meeting**
USW District 2 Southern MI Sub-Office, 20600 Eureka Road, Suite 300 • Taylor, MI
- 18 WOS Quarterly Meeting (Southern Michigan Area)**
Michigan State AFL-CIO Office, 419 South Washington Square, Suite 200 • Lansing, MI
- 21 WOS Quarterly Meeting**
Kent Ionia Labor Hall, 918 Benjamin Avenue NE • Grand Rapids, MI

JULY

- 8-9 Financial Officers Training (Wisconsin)**
Red Lion Hotel Paper Valley, 333 West College Avenue • Appleton, WI
- 11-12 Financial Officers Training (Michigan)**
Great Hall Banquet & Convention Center, 5121 Bay City Road • Midland, MI
- 12 WOS Quarterly Meeting**
Milwaukee Labor Council Building, 633 S. Hawley Road • Milwaukee, WI
- 21-25 USW International Civil and Human Rights Conference**
Hilton Minneapolis, 1001 Marquette Avenue • Minneapolis, MN

AUGUST

- 20 WOS Quarterly Meeting**
Upper Michigan Community Credit Union, 204 M-28 East • Munising, MI

SEPTEMBER

- 9-13 USW International Safety and Health Conference**
Westin Convention Center, 1000 Penn Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA

OCTOBER

- 8 Presidents Meeting**
Ronn Hall, 1206 Baldwin Avenue • Negaunee, MI
- 9 Presidents Meeting**
Fraternal Order of Eagles, 1104 S. Oak Avenue • Marshfield, WI
- 10 Presidents Meeting**
Lucky Dog's Labor Temple, 157 S. Green Bay Road • Neenah, WI
- 11 Presidents Meeting**
Milwaukee Labor Council Building, 633 S. Hawley Road • Milwaukee, WI
- 15 Presidents Meeting**
Teamsters Local 7 Hall, 3330 Miller Road • Kalamazoo, MI
- 16 Presidents Meeting**
USW Local 12075 Hall, 3510 James Savage Road • Midland, MI
- 17 Presidents Meeting**
USW District 2 Southern MI Sub-Office, 20600 Eureka Road, Suite 300 • Taylor, MI
- 28-30 USW International Rapid Response Conference**
Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Avenue NW • Washington, D.C.

NOVEMBER

- 4-8 Sub-District Local Union Leadership Training (Wisconsin)**
TBD • Appleton & Milwaukee, WI
- 18-22 USW International Next Generation Conference**
TBD • Pittsburgh, PA

DECEMBER

- 2-6 Sub-District Local Union Leadership Training (Michigan)**
TBD • Midland & Chelsea, MI

This schedule is designed to assist in planning this year's events. However, there is a possibility dates and/or locations could change due to unforeseen circumstances. Changes and corrections will be made ASAP and updated on the USW D2 Website.

A Message from Director Bolton - *continued from page 2*

was distributed to legislators at the state and federal levels. That bears repeating — 1 million proposed laws written by lobbyists. That, brothers and sisters, is the reason our Union's work in the legislative area is so important. It is also the reason why your participation in the Steelworkers' efforts is so important.

I would like to encourage you to get involved in our legislative program through Rapid Response. Also, I urge you to help District 2 elect political candidates who will support our working class agenda. The rights to join a Union and engage in collective bargaining are fundamental to sustaining a strong working class. ALEC and its copycats are out to weaken those rights. We need your help to stop them. **Get involved today!**

Alliance for Retired Americans • Retiree News - By Jay McMurran, 1st VP., MI. ARA & D2 SOAR Exec. Board Member

Social Security:

More than Just Retirement Benefits (Part 1)

Before the Social Security Act was passed in 1935, American workers were pretty much on their own when it came to retirement benefits. It was also a time before the government granted workers the right to collective bargaining. With Unions operating from such a disadvantage, wages were low and benefits almost non-existent. In fact, in 1920, only 15% of U.S. companies offered workers employer-sponsored pensions.



So, what did workers do prior to Social Security? There weren't a lot of options available back then. The first, and probably most preferred option, for a sound future was savings. However, establishing a nest egg wasn't an easy task to do. First, workers didn't earn much money back then. So stashing a little away each week was difficult. Second, there were little to no regulations on banks and savings institutions and this was before the FDIC existed to insure savings. At that time banks failed at a greater rate than today and workers lost everything. Remember that image of an old timer stuffing money in a mattress? That is what those who could afford to save resorted to. While stuffing greenbacks in a Perfect Sleeper may seem unwise to us, there wasn't much choice back then.

The second option, and the one most likely to happen, saw the elderly turning to their children or family for help. According to census information, the 1930's saw 50% of senior Americans living with their kids. Children of the other 50% often were forced to send money to the parents to see them through month after month. While churches and some social organizations offered some assistance, the amount of help they could offer was limited due to the demand during the Depression. Again, safety nets like unemployment, welfare, or workers' compensation did not exist.

If you didn't have children, or they didn't have the means to help you get by, you could be sent to live in the County Poor House. Poor Houses were taxpayer-supported residential institutions to which people had to go if they couldn't support themselves. They were started to provide a cheaper alternative to welfare. Fortunately, in 1875, states began to regulate Poor Houses, establishing rules that prohibited children from living in the institutions, banning residents with mental illnesses and separating those with special needs. Thankfully, as a result of the regulations, Poor Houses became a sad foot note in U.S. history.

The final option, as far as retirement was involved, workers simply owned up to the reality that they couldn't retire so they resolved to work until they died. In some cases, sympathetic employers would pity the elderly and move them into work their aging bodies could handle. But that wasn't a guarantee and often seniors had to struggle to get the job done.

Today, because of many of the programs the Franklin D. Roosevelt Administration implemented to help dig the country out of the Great Depression, most of us do not have to worry about making those kinds of decisions. But with the country running a record deficit and the Trump tax cuts contributing trillions to the national debt, Republicans in Congress are looking to safety net programs, like Social Security and Medicare and Medicaid to balance the budget. With schemes to privatize Social Security and plans to turn Medicare into a voucher system, we have to be on guard to protect the hard earned benefits we enjoy today. We have to be prepared to tell Washington, "We have come a long way since the County Poor House days and we are not going back!"



"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

UNITED STEELWORKERS
Rapid Response
EDUCATING • EMPOWERING • ENGAGING

ACTION Call

No Vote Until NAFTA is Fixed

For a quarter century, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has failed workers. CEOs continue to shutter factories in the U.S. while pursuing low wages and lax environmental standards as they set up shop in Mexico. For those U.S. workers who hang on to their jobs, there is still downward pressure on wages and benefits from this lopsided playing field. In Mexico, workers struggle to make gains.

Right now, at the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, a U.S. worker makes around \$24 an hour. In Mexico, Goodyear pays workers less than \$2 an hour. The company recently made a \$500 million investment in a brand new facility in Mexico. They also announced layoffs in the U.S. This broken system isn't designed to benefit workers here or in Mexico. It's designed to maximize corporate profits.

Our union has been working with our allies in Mexico and Canada for years to bring attention to the problems. We have an opportunity to get it right as NAFTA is renegotiated. There's been progress, but not enough. We need swift and certain enforcement of labor provisions. Mexican workers must be able to freely bargain for a better future, and not be subjected to threats and violence when attempting to form an independent union. We also need to fix problems in the proposed deal, like the monopoly rights for pharmaceutical corporations that will keep drug prices sky high (more info at usw.to/meds).

This week and next, workers across America are taking action by sending their U.S. Representatives a simple message: **No Vote Until NAFTA is Fixed!**

**Dial your U.S. Representative toll-free:
866-202-5409**

*You'll be directed to the right person
based on your zip code.*

Please leave a message with staff (or on voicemail) saying:

- "I'm [name], and I live in [city/town]. I want Congress to hold off on a vote on NAFTA until it's fixed. The renegotiated NAFTA needs strong enforcement for its labor provisions and fixes to the rules that will keep drug prices high. Please take the time to do this right."
- *Have a personal experience? Share that too!*

Rapid Response Coordinators & Teams: Please pick a day during the next week and a half to urge your local's members to call. Making a call only takes a minute, but remains one of the most effective ways to persuade lawmakers!

Amazon – and 56 Other Corporations – Took Your Tax Dollars - *By Leo W. Gerard, USW International President*



Yeah, yeah, yeah, Bernie Sanders, castigator of the one percent, is a millionaire now. So are Kamala Harris and Elizabeth Warren. Big whoop. There's a crucial difference between these candidates seeking the Democratic presidential nomination and the super wealthy – particularly 60 gigantic, massively profitable U.S. corporations. The candidates faithfully pay federal taxes. The corporations don't.

That's right. Sixty profitable corporations paid no federal taxes in 2018, twice the number that typically paid nothing in the years before the 2017 tax breaks took effect. In fact, it's worse than that. Fifty-seven of these corporations demanded rebates from the government – which means taxpayers like you and me paid them to exist. These are corporations on the dole. They claim to hate socialism if it means Medicare for All, but they sure as hell love socialism when it's welfare for them.

Sanders, Harris, Warren and other candidates seeking the Democratic nomination paid their taxes because they are patriots. Most working Americans pay a fair share to support their country. True citizens pay so that their nation can thrive. They pay so that the United States can afford to educate its citizens, pave its roads, operate its courts, care for its vulnerable and sustain its military. They pay because they understand they have a duty to the country that nurtured them, that protects them and that they love.

But too many U.S. corporations, which the U.S. Supreme Court has anointed with human rights, refuse to acknowledge their concomitant obligations. Corporations and the super wealthy pushed hard for the tax breaks Republicans bestowed on them in 2017. Fat cats paid untold tens of millions to dark money groups that served as cash cows for GOP candidates who, once elected, shepherded those tax breaks.

Corporate front groups and GOP apologists such as Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin insisted the tax cuts would pay for themselves. Mnuchin went even further, contending the cuts would reduce the deficit by \$1 trillion. Everything would be hunky-dory. It was a lie then. And now the deceit is exposed for the grotesquerie it was. The U.S. Treasury reported that corporations paid \$92 billion less in federal taxes in 2018 than they did in 2017, a 31 percent drop off.

To put that in perspective, the decline is the second largest since 1934, which was during the Great Depression. The only larger swoon was 55 percent at the outset of the Great Recession from 2008 to 2009.

Bad things happen when corporations shirk their obligations. One is that workers end up bearing more of the cost. Last year, individual taxpayers provided more than half of federal income tax revenue and corporations contributed only 7 percent. Just four years ago, corporations accounted for 11 percent and individual taxpayers 47 percent.

Another ill effect is that government debt balloons. The U.S. Treasury Department reported that the deficit rose \$113 billion or 17 percent in the first year of the tax cuts, the largest one-year increase since 2009, which was during the worst of the Great Recession. That black hole is projected to occur every year the tax cuts remain in effect.

Republicans take those deficit figures – deficits they created by cutting taxes – and use them to demand offsetting spending cuts – that is cuts to Social Security, cuts to Medicare and Medicaid, cuts to food stamps and school lunch programs, cuts to programs that are precious to workers and the poor.

The deficits grow like this: Amazon, the online marketplace, made nearly \$11 billion last year and instead of paying the current, low 21 percent corporate tax rate on that income, it demanded that taxpayers give it \$129 million. Which they did. It wasn't a rebate since Amazon paid no taxes. It was a big fat, gift withdrawn involuntarily from workers' pockets, wrapped in a fuzzy, flocked Amazon smiley bag, and deposited directly into corporate coffers. This is perverse wealth transfer, from the poor and middle class to the rich and corporations.

And taxpayers didn't even get Amazon Prime in exchange. Of the 60 profitable corporations that paid no taxes, 57 got payments like this from workers. Amazon's wasn't even the largest. Ten companies took more, including Duke Energy, which set an infamous record for itself by grubbing the most – \$647 million. On about \$76 billion in pretax income, the 57 forced taxpayers to give them \$4.3 billion.

If, instead of exploiting every potential loophole and dodging every conceivable requirement, these corporations had paid their taxes at the new, low 21 percent rate, the United States would have received \$16.4 billion in revenue from them.

That's money the country needs. And it's not like Amazon and its fellow corporate welfare recipients don't deliver their goods on the roads that workers' tax dollars construct, or snap up software engineers educated in public schools that workers' tax dollars build, or argue their patent cases in courts that workers' tax dollars maintain.

Americans overwhelmingly support repairing the nation's crumbling roads, bridges, airports and water lines, using U.S.-made products and union workers. In 2017, the American Society of Civil Engineers gave the nation's infrastructure a D grade and estimated that the United States must spend \$4.5 trillion by 2025 to upgrade the structures on which American commerce depends.

President Donald Trump and majorities in Congress are all for infrastructure improvements too. But it never happens. And the

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"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

Amazon – and 56 Other Corporations – Took Your Tax Dollars - By Leo W. Gerard, USW Int'l. Pres. - continued from page 6

reason is money. There is no money to do it when so many U.S. corporations use this infrastructure to make boatloads of money, pay no taxes and demand the government give them workers' tax dollars.

Workers use those roads and bridges and pipelines too. But we pay. Yeah, Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren made a lot of money by writing and selling books in the past couple of years. In 2018, Sanders and his wife, Jane, reported to the IRS an adjusted gross income of \$561,293, which included \$393,000 from selling books. They gave \$19,000 to charities and paid a federal tax rate of 26 percent – significantly higher than the 21 percent rate charged to corporations, which don't pay it anyway. Bernie and Jane gave the federal government \$145,840.

Other Democrats seeking the party's nomination for president released tax returns showing they paid their fair share as well. They include Kamala Harris who reported earnings of about \$1.9 million and paid at an effective tax rate of 37 percent last year. Sen. Warren, with an adjusted gross income of \$846,394, paid at a rate of 27 percent. Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, who had the lowest adjusted gross income of the Democrats who have released tax forms, \$202,912, also, logically, paid the lowest rate, 15 percent.

Each of them paid more money and at a higher rate than billionaire Amazon. Not all wealthy people believe it's wise to sustain a system that does not require the 1 percent and profitable corporations to pay their fair share. A group of them, the Patriotic Millionaires as they call themselves, met in Washington, D.C., this week to discuss better ways to assess taxes and what will happen to this country if nothing changes. They believe the government should mandate tax payments from the rich and corporations to ensure survival of the very in situations and values that helped the one percent accrue millions and billions.

The crucial difference between you and Amazon is that you paid your fair share, and Amazon took your tax dollars. So, no, the roads and bridges won't get fixed this year either.

USW District 2 Spring Local Union Leadership Training

The Spring Local Union Leadership Training will be held on dates and locations listed below. If you haven't sent in your registration form, please do so as soon as possible to Jenny Van Schyndel, at USW District 2, 1244A Midway Road, Menasha, WI 54952.

May 14 – Midland, MI - Advanced Steward Training, To Unite All: Building a Stronger Union, and Union Approach to Health & Safety

May 16 – Chelsea, MI - Advanced Steward Training, To Unite All: Building a Stronger Union, and FMLA Training (make-up class)

May 21 – Appleton, WI - Advanced Steward Training, To Unite All: Building a Stronger Union, and Union Approach to Health & Safety

May 23 – Milwaukee, WI - Advanced Steward Training and To Unite All: Building a Stronger Union

Participants will have a choice of one of the following classes:

(1) **Advanced Steward Training**

Class Description: *Educated stewards are indispensable union leaders. They enforce the collective bargaining agreement and serve as a vital communication link between the membership and local union leaders and front-line supervision. This class takes a close look at the role of stewards in investigating, writing, and presenting grievances around the 'just cause' provisions of the collective bargaining agreement. It will also feature interactive discussions and role-play activities on how stewards can organize to build solidarity and power where workers need it the most on the job. Members attending this class should bring a copy of their collective bargaining agreement.*

(2) **To Unite All: Building a Stronger Union**

Class Description: *Labor history shows when workers are united they have more power than individual, isolated workers. This interactive workshop features an in-depth examination of U.S. labor history, including the efforts of unions to build solidarity against the divisive efforts of the bosses. This program also takes a closer look at how local unions can use existing structures, including standing committees, to organize an inclusive workplace environment and local union that welcomes all workers.*

(3) **Union Approach to Health and Safety**

Class Description: *This class will provide tools to help local unions create safer, healthier workplaces; involve members in the union's health and safety activities, develop creative strategies to get tough problems addressed and build local union strength.*

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

This Month in History: First Earth Day • April 22, 1970 - The History Channel & Wikipedia



Earth Day, an event to increase public awareness of the world's environmental problems, is celebrated in the United States for the first time. Millions of Americans, including students from thousands of colleges and universities, participated in rallies, marches, and educational programs.

Earth Day was the brainchild of Senator Gaylord Nelson (D) of Wisconsin, a staunch environmentalist who hoped to provide unity to the grassroots environmental movement and increase ecological awareness. "The objective was to get a nationwide demonstration of concern for the environment so large that it would shake the political establishment out of its lethargy," Senator Nelson said, "and, finally, force this issue permanently onto the national political agenda." Earth Day indeed increased environmental awareness in America, and in July of that

year, the Environmental Protection Agency was established by special executive order to regulate and enforce national pollution legislation.



The overwhelming success of Earth Day 1970 made it an annual event that continues to this day. In the years that followed, the Clean Water Act, the Federal Pesticides Act, the Clean Air Act, the Environmental Education Act, the National Hiking Trails and the National Scenic Trails Acts were established, as was the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and many other federal, state and local programs to protect the environment.

In 1980, Nelson was voted out of office in the Republican stampede that coincided with the election of Ronald Reagan. He remained active in national politics, becoming a counselor for The Wilderness Society for 24 years.

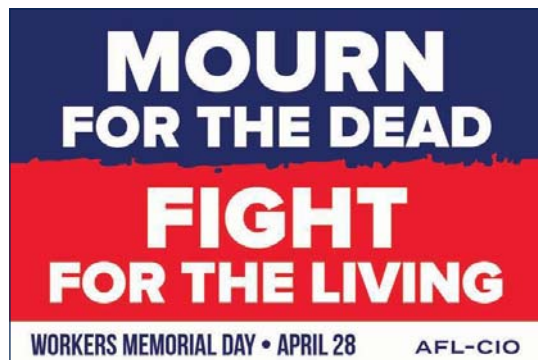
On April 22, 1990, the 20th anniversary of Earth Day, more than 200 million people in 141 countries participated in Earth Day celebrations.

Earth Day has been celebrated on different days by different groups internationally. The United Nations officially celebrates it on the vernal equinox, which usually occurs about March 21.

Nelson received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, in 1995. Ten years later, he died of congestive heart failure on July 3, 2005, at the age of 89.



This Month in Labor History: April 28, 1971 • Occupational Safety and Health Administration/Workers' Memorial Day



The Occupational Safety and Health Administration – the main federal agency charged with the enforcement of workplace safety and health legislation – On April 28, 1971, opened its doors.

The creation of OSHA proved to be one the greatest victory in American history for workplace health. April 28 is designated as Workers Memorial Day, an international day of remembrance for those workers killed, injured, or made sick on the job.

Workers' Memorial Day takes place annually across our nation and Workers' Memorial Day, International Workers' Memorial Day or International Commemoration Day (ICD) for Dead and Injured or Day of Mourning takes place annually around the world on April 28. This is a national and international day of

remembrance and action for workers killed, disabled, injured or made unwell by their work.

Workers' Memorial Day is a day of remembrance for workers killed in incidents at work or by diseases caused by work with events held throughout the world. Events may include, but are not limited to, active campaigning and workplace awareness, multi-faith religious services, laying wreaths, planting trees, unveiling monuments, balloon releases, raising public awareness of issues and the setting out of shoes to symbolize those who have died at work. This day is also an opportunity to highlight the preventable nature of most workplace accidents and ill health and to promote the fight for improvements in workplace safety.

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

USW Local 4950 Annual "Support Local Schools" Raffle - Submitted by Michael Grondz

USW Local 4950 is kicking off their 2nd annual "Support Local Schools" raffle. Last year, they were able to raise \$12,500 and distributed it to seven local elementary schools to be utilized for specialized school supplies.

"We are off to a good start this year and are hoping to surpass last year's numbers. The Next Generation Committee is honored to give back to our community that has supported our Local for generations."



Correction in March Issue

A special **THANK YOU** to Kathi VanBerkum for discovering a missing text line in one of the articles in last month's edition of the *District 2 News*. The omission occurred in the "This Month in Labor History" article (page 8 of Volume 9, Issue 3).

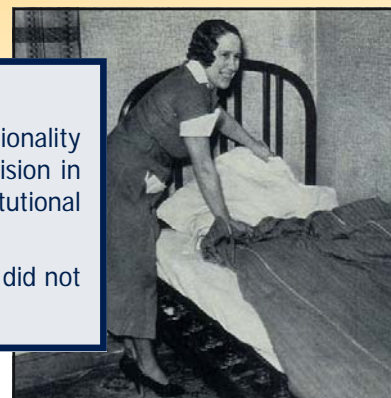
Kathi is a retired member of USW Local 2-144. She had 26 years at the former Appleton Coated.

We have reprinted it one more time - *with the missing text highlighted in red*.

This month in labor history, March 29, 1937 (pictured right):

The U.S. Supreme Court, in *West Coast Hotel Co. v. Parrish*, upholds the constitutionality of minimum wage legislation enacted by the State of Washington, overturning a decision in 1923 that held that federal minimum wage legislation for women was an unconstitutional infringement of liberty of contract.

The case was brought by Elsie Parrish, a hotel housekeeper, who lost her job and did not **receive back wages in line with the state's minimum wage for women law.**



Not So Funny Political Cartoons



"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

USW District 2 Biennial Legislative Conference - Submitted by Sue Browne, Rapid Response Coordinator

USW District 2 held its Biennial Legislative Conference April 9-10, 2019, in Michigan City, Indiana. During the conference, USW members from Michigan and Wisconsin were updated on state and federal issues and received information to make the connection between legislation and the direct effect it has at the bargaining table during contract negotiations.

Additionally, delegates explored ideas to engage new members through the Next Generation Program while also looking at the benefit of keeping retirees involved through the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR).

Workshops provided the opportunity to learn how to build and strengthen Rapid Response, share our message with elected officials via social media and provided forward looking techniques to improve communication skills so our collective voice can be a stronger powerhouse at the Local, in Lansing, Madison and Washington D.C.

Delegates called upon their elected officials to co-sponsor The Butch Lewis Act (H.R.397), a bill that would extend long-term loans to financially troubled plans. This legislation would help to avoid pension cuts and provide certainty for pensioners.

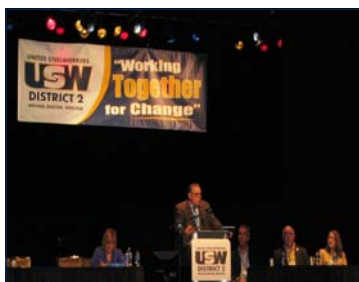
They also called upon their elected officials to co-sponsor the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act H.R.1309/S.B.851.

While workplace violence is a serious and growing problem for all workers, in the last decade, incidents in these industries have far outpaced any other. Given that workplace violence compromises quality of care, **everyone is ultimately impacted.**

Workplace violence prevention plans that incorporate appropriate training, staffing levels, resources, and other strategies can make a difference. The Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act (H.R.1309/S.B.851) would direct the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to issue an enforceable standard so these workplaces are covered by plans. Please watch for an upcoming action, which could be as early as next week.

For more information and/or to set up a Rapid Response training at your local, please contact Sue Browne at sbrowne@usw.org or 269-838-5956.

USW District 2 Biennial Legislative Conference Pictures



— Continued on Page 11—

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

USW District 2 Biennial Legislative Conference Pictures - *continued from page 10*



Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Workers Act

You don't hear it on the nightly news or read about it in the daily newspapers. Despite the lack of public awareness, an epidemic is taking place that threatens the safety of millions of American health care workers. What is this epidemic? It is a rash of physical attacks against doctors, nurses and other health care workers by patients and frustrated family members. According to health care industry statistics, violence against care providers has increased 69% over the past ten years. This increase represents 50 such attacks a day according to government figures.

Ashley S. is an RN in Washington state. On September 16, she was choked by a patient as she tried to change her IV. The patient grabbed Ashley's throat and yelled, "I am going to kill you."

Karen is a nurse in Anytown, USA. According to the Nursing Association, she was attacked while working in the Emergency Room. She said, "Out of the blue the patient hit me in the jaw as I was trying to perform an electrocardiogram." The punch left her devastated physically and emotionally.

Finally, Maria G., an Emergency Room Nurse pulling the midnight shift at a Pennsylvania hospital, was attacked after EMTs brought in a tiny woman who was obviously intoxicated. Hospital personnel reported that she was agitated and aggressive. Doctors recommended that the patient be restrained. As Maria and a co-worker stretched out the restraints, the patient kicked the co-worker. Maria used her forearm to try to push the patient back down on the gurney. As she did, the intoxicated lady reached out and began scratching and hitting the nurse on her face and neck. As Marie struggled to free herself, the patient grabbed her stethoscope and began to choke the nurse with it. Fortunately, the stethoscope broke and the nurse was able to get away.

Fifteen years ago, OSHA issued a voluntary guidance to employers in violence protection, but, unfortunately, the problem has only become worse. The guidelines are not sufficient; and even though some states and employers have acted, more needs to be done. USW District 2 Director Michael Bolton said, "The Steelworkers Union represents over 3,000 health care workers in Michigan and Wisconsin and the threats to these workers are very real. We are currently asking members of the United States House and Senate to support H.R.1309/S.B.851, the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Workers Act. The bill is long overdue and is a good step in protecting health care workers." The Act would require OSHA to issue an enforceable standard and would also require input from workers, unions and employers that will ultimately lead to improvements such as emergency response systems, safe staffing levels, and other strategies needed to keep workers, patients, clients, and their loved ones safe.

The Rapid Response Program is launching a national action in support of this legislation. Keep an eye on your e-mail for updates and action details.

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— Continued on Page 13—

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

USW Free College Benefit for Union Members! - continued from page 12

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