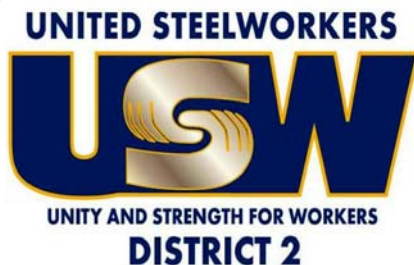




MICHAEL H. BOLTON, DIRECTOR



NEWS

FEBRUARY 2019 • VOLUME 9, ISSUE 2, PAGE 1

DISTRICT 2 CONTACT INFORMATION

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1244A Midway Road
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(920) 722-7630

Northern WI & MI Sub-District Office
1244A Midway Road
Menasha, WI 54952
(920) 722-7630

Southern WI Sub-District Office
1126 South 70th Street
Suite N509A
West Allis, WI 53214
(414) 475-4560

Northern MI Sub-District Office
503 North Euclid Avenue
Suite #10 - Euclid Plaza
Bay City, MI 48706
(989) 667-0660

Southern MI Sub-District Office
20600 Eureka Road, Suite 300
Taylor, MI 48180
(734) 285-0367

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
Ron Fancsal	1296	Steel and Related	lfancsal@yahoo.com
Don Carlson	59	Paper	doncarlsoningta.net
Robert Desmond	13702	Amalgamated	rdesmond@aol.com
Jesse Edwards	2-232	Automotive Related	Jesse_edwards2101@yahoo.com
Kent Holmg	12075	Chemical & Energy Related	kentholmg@gmail.com
Jackie Ankam	9899	Health Care	jackieankam_usaw@aol.com
John Mandyk	12934	Public	jmandyk@uswlocal12934.com
Dave Page	1327	Al Large	dpage68@yahoo.com
Matthew Gibbons	1965	Al Large	usw5965@gmail.com
Jim Whitt	2-145	Allied Industrial	whittjmi@yahoo.com



United Steelworkers District 2
AFL-CIO-CLC

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Contributors to this issue include:

Loi Gulekunt, Tammy Duncan, Jay McMullan, Linda Lucas,
Cindy Odden, Leo W. Gerard, The History Channel,
Napoleon Gomez Urrutia (La Jornada), MarketWatch

Articles and photos are welcome and should be sent:

Art Kroll, Editor, District 2 News

20600 Eureka Road, Suite 300, Taylor, MI 48180
d2@usw.org • 734-285-0367

March 22, 2019, is the deadline for submissions for the next issue.

We Need Strong Unions to End Income Inequality and to Create an Economy that Works for us

A Message from Michael Bolton



On behalf of United Steelworkers District 2, I would like to convey our most sincere condolences to the family of former United States Congressman John D. Dingell, who was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1955, succeeding his father who held the same seat for 22 years. John Jr. set the mark for serving the longest in Congress with 59 years of service. He retired in 2015 and his wife Debbie was elected to fill the vacancy.

At the time of his retirement, Dingell was known as the Dean of the House; and his accomplishments are many. From championing the creation of Medicare, to leading the fight for the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, to the annual sponsorship of Medicare for All, his legislation reads like a 20th century history story of America. However, perhaps most important, he was a friend of the Steelworkers. Known simply as "Big John" to USW members in the Downriver Detroit area, he was an avowed Union supporter who never lost touch with working class families. He will be missed by all of us in the struggle for a more just America.

Losing a great labor-friendly Representative like John Dingell is a huge loss to the working class. It's important our voices are still be heard, especially by all the newly elected representatives. We must continue to make it clear to congress that we need good paying jobs in America.

History clearly shows us the working class thrives when legislators and Unions work together to promote a worker-friendly economic agenda; such as, Congress acting to raise wages and create jobs, creation of the forty-hour workweek, the National Labor Relations Act, Eisenhower's push to build our national Interstate Highway System and Obama's massive investment in repairing our infrastructure. Of course, there are many more examples, but we're working with limited space here. The point is no other entity is equipped to make the changes needed to implement economic policies that every American benefits from.

The type of change we want is not going to be brought about by another round of tax cuts as Trump is again proposing. We've heard Republican promises about the benefits of trickle-down economics since the Reagan/Stockman years. The problem is, 37 years later, we're still waiting for the trickle to reach us. And it doesn't look like the recent Trump tax cuts are going to reach us either as early tax filers are reporting their annual income tax returns are down 8.4% from \$2,035 to \$1,865.

Trump Cuts turned one year old in January and results are showing they have fallen far short of the goals set by GOP lawmakers. Remember, they promised companies would create jobs by investing in existing facilities and the construction of new ones; subsequently, raising the demand for workers, which in turn would lead to higher wages. The reality is that hasn't materialized as 84% of company respondents to a National Association of Business Economists report showed the Tax Cut and Jobs Act has not prompted them to change investment plans. Instead, bosses used the cuts to buy back stock and claim greater profits, which improved the company's value leading to increased pay for executives and shareholders.

Ironically, earlier in his administration, Trump proposed the type of action the Steelworkers have been calling for as he introduced a massive infrastructure investment plan. It was the kind of investment that put more dollars in the economy and would drive up demand for goods and services. And remember, there is really only one way to create jobs – increase demand! However, the President has chosen to put his energy into government shut downs and building walls. He has shown little interest in fighting for legislation that most Americans could support and actually benefit from.

On January 19, CNN held the first of its "Presidential Town Hall Meetings" of the 2020 election cycle. U.S. Senator, Kamala Harris (D-CA), was the first candidate to face live questions from voters in Iowa and made a strong presentation. However, to me, there was a bit of a letdown because she failed to mention Unions during the one-hour exchange. As we head into the election, I would like to remind Democrats that our country thrived when the party and organized labor worked

— Continued on Page 2 —

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

Did you know?

The wage gap costs the average full-time U.S. woman worker between \$700,000 and \$2 million over the course of her work life.

"It was the labor movement that helped secure so much of what we take for granted today. The 40-hour workweek, the minimum wage, family leave, health insurance, Social Security, Medicare, retirement plans. The cornerstones of the middle-class security all bear the union label."

—President Barack Obama

Did You Know

Every seven days that the fiduciary rule is delayed from going into effect would cost retirement savers \$431 million over the next 30 years.

The only way to grow the economy in a way that benefits the bottom 90% is to change the structure of the economy. At the least, this requires stronger unions and a higher minimum wage."

ZERO

The number of states where a minimum wage worker can afford a two-bedroom apartment working a 40-hour week.



The Union Plus Credit Card program.

With 3 card choices - designed to meet the needs of union members. All with competitive rates, U.S. based customer service and more. Plus, exclusive hardship grants for eligible cardholders*.

The Union Plus Credit Card Program is designed to meet the needs of hard-working union members and their families.

To apply by phone, call: 1-800-522-4000



**United Steelworkers District 2
AFL-CIO-CLC**

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



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

A Message from Director Bolton - continued from page 1

together to improve the working and economic lives of blue-collar families. Unfortunately, this relationship took a hit during the so-called 1982 Reagan Revolution when the Democratic Party felt it had to move to the right in order to survive. The situation was further strained by the election of Bill Clinton with his Democratic Leadership Council philosophy toward Unions. It almost got to the point that some Democrats were ashamed to be in the same room as us.

It's time those days come to end. It's 2019. America is a different place and the country needs strong Unions to end income inequality and to create an economy that works for all of us. Not only does the country need strong Unions, they want them! Recent polling shows organized labor's support at its highest level in years. In fact, in terms of organizing, 2017 was our most successful in years. Despite countless attacks at the state and federal levels of government, Union membership is holding steady and growing in many places. Unions, with the support of Democrats, built the American working class and we are the only ones who can rebuild it. This starts with politicians talking about the need to organize and encouraging workers to join a Union.

"Go build our Union!" You've heard me make this statement in the past and it is something I hope you are doing every day. Whether it's organizing new members, representing a Steelworker during a grievance or arbitration hearing, negotiating a new bargaining agreement, or simply attending a local union meeting, we have a role to play in building a stronger, more effective Union. Not all of these roles call for you to run for a Union office or require you to take special training. The most important thing that any of us can do to build strength is to say something good about our Union.

Think about it. When you need to buy a new product or service you might be unfamiliar with, you talk to family and friends to get their input. A positive recommendation can perk up your ears and lead you to follow the advice you received. However, a negative review can sour you on the company and cause you to never consider using that product or service.

The same is true about our Union. Most workers do not belong to a Labor Organization and don't have the foggiest idea what we are about or how we work. There isn't much about us in the history books and the media only reports about us during strikes, layoffs or plant closings. The most our friends hear about Unions is through the things we say, meaning they are forming their opinions about our movement based what they hear from us. So, if we are talking badly and complain all the time, that is the impression they will get. However, if our words are encouraging and recognizing the good work we do, that is the picture they will have of the Steelworkers.

I am not saying our movement is perfect or you have to like everything we do. Sometimes we disagree with a policy or we don't like a person in leadership. This kind of stuff happens, but it doesn't define what our Union really is. Our Union gives us a voice at the workplace and in the decision making process that affects our lives. It makes the boss treat us as equals. It ensures we get an honest day's pay for an honest day's work. It's the effort to maintain a safe workplace and to settle disagreements in a just way. In short, our Union does a lot of good things and I believe we should all be proud to belong. Sure, it's okay to discuss our disagreements with each other. After all, that's how we learn and change. But remember, your words are a commercial for the Steelworkers. They have the power to tear us down or to build us up.

So, go build our Union. Say something good about the Steelworkers today!



"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 Dist. 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 Kosciuszko • 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

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

MAY continued

- 13-17 Sub-District Local Union Leadership Training (Michigan)**
TBD • Midland & Chelsea, MI
- 20-24 Sub-District Local Union Leadership Training (Wisconsin)**
TBD • Appleton & Milwaukee, WI
- 21 USW District 2 Lobby Day (Michigan)**
Michigan State AFL-CIO Office, 419 South Washington Square, Suite 200 • Lansing, MI

JUNE

- 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
- 13 Presidents Meeting**
USW Dist. 2 Southern MI Sub-Office, 20600 Eureka Road, Suite 300 • Taylor, MI

JULY

- 21-25 USW International Civil and Human Rights Conference**
Hilton Minneapolis, 1001 Marquette Avenue • Minneapolis, MN

SEPTEMBER

- 9-13 USW International Safety and Health Conference**
TBD • 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 Dist. 2 Southern MI Sub-Office, 20600 Eureka Road, Suite 300 • Taylor, MI
- 28-31 USW International Rapid Response Conference**
TBD • 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.

Steelworkers at USW LU 1900 in South Lyon, Michigan, are Mourning the Death of their Co-worker

Steelworkers at USW Local 1900 in South Lyon, Michigan, are mourning the death of their co-worker, Daniel Hill. Brother Daniel, or Moose as he was affectionately known around the mill, was a two-year employee of Michigan Seamless Tube and had recently transferred to a new job. He was taking a sample of sulfuric acid and somehow fell into the chemical tank. Hill was quickly removed from the solution and taken by co-workers to a decontamination center. He was rushed to the U of M burn center in Ann Arbor but succumbed to his injuries several hours later.

Brother Dan was 54 years old and his family noted that he was a very caring and loving husband, father and grandfather. The Army veteran was an avid hunter and fisherman and was passionate about animals, especially his three dogs. A funeral service was held on February 16 in Hamburg, MI, and was attended by Steelworkers from his home Local, District 2 and the USW International Union.

USW District 2 Director Michael Bolton responded to the news of Hill's death saying, "I know Steelworkers from across Wisconsin and Michigan join me in expressing our deepest sympathy for the Hill family at this tragic time. To keep the memory of Brother Dan alive, let's each of us pledge in his name to work harder to improve the safety conditions at our work sites. Safety is no accident. It takes all of us working together to ensure that all of our sisters and brothers return to their homes at the end of each work day."

On February 15th, all USW District 2 Local Union Presidents and Recording Secretaries were sent a letter to show our solidarity with the Hill family. A special fund will be established in Daniel's memory. All money donated to the fund will go directly to his family. I am encouraging each District 2 local union, and any concerned members, to send a contribution. Checks should be made out to "Pamela Hill" and sent to the Taylor Sub-District Office at the following address: 20600 Eureka Road, Suite 300, Taylor, MI 48180. The suggested contribution for local unions is \$50. Of course, those that can afford to make a larger donation are welcome to do so.

Alliance for Retired Americans • Retiree News - By Jay McMurren, 1st Vice-Pres., MI ARA & USW District 2 SOAR Executive Board Member



Let's face it. We retirees have a little more time on our hands, which means we have greater opportunities to catch a little daytime television. Hey, it's okay! You paid your dues. So, relax and enjoy the show. If you've tuned in, you have probably seen guys like Henry Winkler and Tom Selleck pushing something called a "reverse mortgage loan". The right wing darlings claim the loans are a great way to supplement your retirement income by taking advantage of the equity you have built up in your home. But, what are they? And, should you really be considering taking out such a loan?

First of all, before we get into the matter, we need to be clear that, at this time, neither the United Steelworkers International Union nor the National AFL-CIO endorse reverse mortgages or any similar product. Reverse mortgages are complicated and there are numerous shady characters using the products to take advantage of seniors. If you think that a reverse mortgage could help put a few extra bucks in your pocket, District 2 recommends that you seek advice from reputable financial advisers. Your home is one of your most important investments and you should never risk it without talking to an experienced professional.

So what is a reverse mortgage loan? When you were starting out, you most likely took out a traditional mortgage to buy your home. A bank or lending institution loaned you money to pay for the house and you agreed to pay it back by paying specific monthly payments over an agreed to length of time. Your payments included interest and fees set by the bank.

As the name implies, a reverse mortgage works the opposite way. You borrow an amount of money using the equity you have built in your house as collateral. The amount of money you can borrow is limited by the U.S. government. Upon approval of your loan, the bank will issue you a lump sum payment or monthly installments. The loan is repaid through the sale of your home at the time of your death, you permanently move from the home, or when the residence is sold.

The upside on reverse mortgages is that they can provide you with extra cash during your retirement years. The loans also allow you to maintain ownership of your home.

The downside is you lose the equity you had in your house. For retirees concerned about leaving something to loved ones, that is a powerful consideration. In addition to the amount of money you borrowed, you are responsible for interest payments and other charges included in your loan agreement. Those charges can be as much as \$30,000 to \$40,000.

In addition to fees and charges, loan agreements may also require you to keep your taxes current and to maintain the condition of your home. A failure to keep your end of the bargain could result in the loss of your home.

As if what we told you wasn't enough to consider, you also have to keep your eyes open for salespeople practicing some pretty shady techniques to get you to enter into a loan by using scams to get a chunk of the money you borrowed. In next month's retiree's article, we'll share a few of the schemes the bad guys use to target seniors. Remember the old adage -- if something sounds too good to be true -- talk to a trained financial adviser!

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

This Month in History: 1954 • Children Receive First Polio Vaccine - The History Channel

On February 23, 1954, a group of children from Arsenal Elementary School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, receive the first injections of the new polio vaccine developed by Dr. Jonas Salk (Right Picture).



Though not as devastating as the plague or influenza, poliomyelitis was a highly contagious disease that emerged in terrifying outbreaks and seemed impossible to stop. Attacking the nerve cells and sometimes the central nervous system, polio caused muscle deterioration, paralysis and even death. Even as medicine vastly improved in the first half of the 20th century in the Western world, polio still struck, affecting mostly children but sometimes adults as well. The most famous victim of a 1921 outbreak in America was future President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, then a young politician. The disease spread quickly, leaving his legs permanently paralyzed.

In the late 1940s, the March of Dimes, a grassroots organization founded with President Roosevelt's help to find a way to defend against polio, enlisted Dr. Jonas Salk, head of the Virus Research Lab at the University of Pittsburgh. Salk found that polio had as many as 125 strains of three basic types, and that an effective vaccine needed to combat all three. By growing samples of the polio virus and then deactivating, or "killing" them by adding a chemical called formalin, Salk developed his vaccine, which was able to immunize without infecting the patient.

After mass inoculations began in 1954, everyone marveled at the high success rate—some 60-70 percent—until the vaccine caused a sudden outbreak of some 200 cases. After it was determined that the cases were all caused by one faulty batch of the vaccine, production standards were improved, and by August 1955 some 4 million shots had been given. Cases of polio in the U.S. dropped from 14,647 in 1955 to 5,894 in 1956, and by 1959 some 90 other countries were using Salk's vaccine.



This Month in Labor History: Karen Silkwood, Born February 19, 1946 - The History Channel



On November 13, 1974, one of the most famous whistleblowers of all time was killed in what is now believed a company-supported murder when she died in a car accident after exposing wrongdoing at a plutonium plant where she worked.

28-year old Karen Silkwood (picture on left) was a Kerr-McGee plutonium plant technician in Oklahoma City and a member of her union's health and safety committee (Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, OCAW). Two months before her death, she went to the federal Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) to report dangerous levels of radioactivity at the plant when monitors showed she had radiation contamination.

After testifying before the AEC, Silkwood was working November 5, polishing plutonium pellets for nuclear power plant fuel rods when a radiation detector went off. It indicated her right arm was covered in plutonium and that it had come from the inside of her work gloves, or from her arm and hand, and not from plutonium exposure. Doctors performed further tests and the results showed high levels of radioactive contamination in her body and the apartment she shared with a co-worker, but it was inconclusive how the radioactivity got in her body at such high levels.

On the night of her death, she was driving to meet with a union representative and a New York Times reporter when she hit a concrete culvert. She had with her paperwork showing the company's safety negligence, paperwork that was missing from the car after the accident. There was no explanation for the crash and she was dead almost instantly. Investigators found she had taken a large dose of Quaaludes before driving. But they also found skid marks and an unexplained dent in her rear bumper, strongly suggesting she was driven off the road by another driver. After she was killed an autopsy showed she had mysteriously ingested plutonium.



Southern Wisconsin Women of Steel Win Jefferson Award

The Jefferson Awards Foundation is the country's longest standing and most prestigious organization dedicated to activating and celebrating public service. Through their programs, JAF trains and empowers individuals to serve and lead in their communities, amplifying their impact through our vast network of media partners, mentors and volunteers.

The Jefferson Awards Foundation was created in 1972 by the American Institute for Public Service. The Jefferson Awards are given at both national and local levels. Local winners are ordinary people who do extraordinary things without expectation of recognition.



WOS Local 12585 Sponsors a Bake Sale to Assist Victims of Human Trafficking - Submitted by Linda Lucas



Local 12585 WOS put on a very impressive bake sale and raised a whopping \$900 for the 'Soap Project' they are working on. The project is designed to assist victims caught up in human trafficking to get help.

If you would like to be a part of this effort, join us on March 27 for the WOS Manistee Area Council Meeting at the Old Morton Federal Credit Union 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Pictured on left: Sherry Spencer and Donna Labbe.

MarketWatch: "The Decline in Labor Unions Has Cut the Pay of All Workers" - Submitted by Jay McMurran

MarketWatch is a publication that is a division of the Dow-Jones Media Group. Its mission is to track markets for investors and its website receives 16 million hits per month. With its deep roots in the Wall Street community, the company could never be viewed as a liberal bastion. So, when the on-line publication produces an article that's favorable to Organized Labor, readers should take note. Late last year, MarketWatch did just that. And here's what it reported:

Under the headline, "This is how much the decline in labor Unions has cut the pay of all workers", the article cites a study by Tom VanHeuvelen, a sociology professor at the University of Illinois. Using the data collected during his study, the professor came to the conclusion that if Unions had a larger presence in U.S. workplaces, all workers would see larger paychecks and better employee benefits.

VanHeuvelen also reported that non-Union workers would be earning up to 7% more if Unions were as strong today as they were prior to the 1980's. He further stated that not only would pay be higher, it would also be more secure. A study by the Peterson Institute for International Economics has found that international trade, technology and changes in labor laws have had a negative impact on Unionization levels in America. That decline in membership has resulted in lower wages, fewer workers participating in employer sponsored pensions and an increase in uninsured workers as well as an increase in employee paid contributions, co-pays and deductibles.

VanHeuvelen also reports the tide may be changing for organized labor. He noted that Union membership had been declining steadily, but over the past ten years organizing has seen an uptick. According to his study results, Americans have a 55% favorable rating of Unions, which is up from 41% in 2011. The survey also revealed that a majority of Americans believe the decline in Union membership is bad for workers, while 35% view it as a good thing.

The majority of America supports us, while a major university study shows strong Unions benefits all workers. It's time for Washington to pull its head from the sand and start passing laws to level the playing field for workers trying to join a Union. Like the old commercial used to suggest: "America works best -- when we say Union Yes!"

USW Wisconsin Women of Steel Held a Lobby Day on January 16, 2019 - Submitted by Cindy Odden



After much planning and organizing, the day came for the WOS Lobby Day in Madison. The Locals were wonderful in sending their members to the event. For most that attended, this was their first Lobby Day! Participants took part in a productive day, which included a meeting with guest speakers and a group picture. After the welcome, introductions, agenda for the day, and the Goals and Expectations, WOS Coordinator for the Milwaukee Area, Cindy Odden, was honored to introduce her Senator, Mark Miller, who delivered a great speech on the importance of lobbying and provided an update on what was happening at the Capitol. Time was also allowed for Senator Miller to answer several questions from our members.

Teresa Mambu-Rasch, WI AFL-CIO Legislative and Research Director, delivered the Policy Issues that we were lobbying for that day.

Stephanie Bloomingdale, President for the WI State AFL-CIO, provided a broad picture of what we are up against, women involvement and building the Union. Stephanie gave a wonderful speech to our members and encouraged them not to stop today, but to continue holding our elective officials accountable.

A lunch break was taken after breaking into groups by our members' own Senators and Representatives and doing some mock interviews with each other for preparation of their scheduled meetings at the Capitol.

After lunch, everyone met in the Capitol's Rotunda on the ground floor for a group picture taken by Staff Representative Jason Wilcox. Appointments were set up for our members to begin lobbying immediately after the group picture was taken.



WOS of Southern WI – Polar Plunge 2019 at the Milwaukee Zoo



Left to right – Linda Pederson, Nicole Carden, Alaina, Polar Bear, Cindy Odden, Rachel Meyers, Paula Uhing. Not in picture John Pederson

MILWAUKEE — "Freezin' for a Reason", hundreds of people in Milwaukee on Sunday, Feb. 17, plunged into icy waters for a good cause.

Money raised at the Polar Plunge at the Milwaukee County Zoo benefits Special Olympics of Wisconsin athletes and helps them compete in games at the state, national and even international levels.

Special Olympics Wisconsin (SOWI) provides year-round sports training and competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage and experience joy while participating in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, Special Olympics athletes and the community.

A snow alert that day did not stop the WOS of Southern WI to participate in the Polar Plunge at the Milwaukee Zoo. The drive from Madison to Milwaukee, Burlington to Milwaukee, and Germantown to Milwaukee was slow and snowy; but everyone arrived in Milwaukee (10:00 am) and the hard work of setting up the jump site was under way. The water had iced over so they were trying to use picks to break it up. As the women registered for a jump time, they had the privilege of networking with workers, Special Olympics athletes, and others there ready to take the plunge. Linda, John, and Nicole volunteered to watch the dry clothes and to take pictures; and most important, to support all those that were going to take the plunge. Rachel, Paula, and Cindy took the plunge for a great cause. Over \$2,000 in donations that the women had collected was turned in at the time of registering for their plunge time. All the donations have not been calculated yet.

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

The International Confederation of Workers is born - NAPOLEÓN GÓMEZ URRUTIA — *La Jornada*



We are experiencing profound changes since the overwhelming popular triumph of Andrés Manuel López Obrador as President of the nation, on July 1, 2018.

But 2019 presents us with challenges as important as those of the previous year: among others, the recovery of the rights of the working class, which for more than 30 years have been attacked by a cabal of politicians, businessmen opposed to social justice, and unions that have lost their authenticity as workers' representatives.

To achieve this purpose we have proposed to create the International Confederation of Workers (CIT), which will give the working class a formidable tool for their struggles. One of its main objectives is to achieve the unity of the workers, in order to fulfill and enforce the pro-worker provisions that the Constitution of

Mexico maintains as a fundamental basis of popular support, despite the deformations that this Magna Carta has suffered in these years from so-called neoliberalism.

This new center aims to defend the rights of workers, without damaging constructive relationships with companies or institutions with which its members have labor agreements, and in the spirit of strengthening the general productivity of the country and conserving the sources of employment.

The way forward is to secure the right to free union organization, both national and international; decent wages and working conditions that preserve the dignity, safety and health of workers and their families; stable and safe jobs; but also the recovery of the unions and the creation of new organizations that will face the challenges encountered by the workers with courage and tenacity.

Confronting these challenges will be the fundamental task of our work and struggle as a great national organization of the workers' sector that has as its best instrument of combat the law, which the authorities have tried to nullify for more than 30 years, along with some corrupt employers who used the services of false union leaders to eliminate labor rights.

If governments and businessmen are organized globally to fight for their interests and negate the strength of the unions, it is up to the workers to develop the class solidarity that the current moment demands to enforce the principles and values of the working class. The first step is to clean up the politics and the representation of the existing union organizations, because unions are the most important mechanism for supporting the people's struggles and achieving their objectives. No one else will do this work for us: the workers will have to do it themselves.

In spite of everything, there are those in the media who – out of naivety, ignorance, bad faith or irreconcilable interests - disparage this initiative for a new, clean, realistic and combative trade unionism, preferring that the dirty and shameful official unions remain the predominant force in the labor movement.

In this time of labor decadence we must understand that the strategy of the enemies of the working class has been to demobilize the workers' organizations and struggles, to create weak unions controlled by the bosses, who count on powerful advisers and law firms dedicated to corrupting the authorities and union leaders. Today as never before have multiplied the employer-dominated unions and protection contracts, which various workers' organizations have denounced before the International Labor Organization (case 2694, February 5, 2009), accusing the authorities of several countries, including the past Mexican government, of complicity in this attempt to deny human and labor rights to the workers.

A serious result of this this political and legal deformation was the presentation in December 2017, by the CTM and the CROC, of a labor reform project - which we consider the worst labor reform proposal in the history of Mexico - which fortunately was not accepted, since it would have wiped out all the history and labor legislation and plunged the country into a new form of slavery.

The new center is born with a more modern, free, democratic, and open vision, with consultations and direct elections, where the secret vote of the members will prevail. This confederation will not be an agency of the government, Morena, nor anyone but the affiliated workers themselves, and to them it will be accountable. Likewise, the doors will be open to all independent and responsible unions, but also to those who seek to re-establish their genuine democratic and class spirit.

The new Mexican confederation of workers is born on the march of the great historical project of the Fourth Transformation led by President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, in whom we see a leader who has proclaimed the democracy to which he aspires, as he has stated, as a democracy of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Its goal is to redeem the country and the Mexican people, because only the people can save themselves. We believe that this new center of the working class in Mexico will be able to cleanse the trade unions of opportunism and betrayal, so that they become powerful allies of Mexico's economic and social development effort, without any obligations whatsoever.

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

China: An Abusive Trade Partner—By Leo W. Gerard, USW International President



In this week when love relationships are celebrated and commemorated, the trade relationship between China and America should be denounced as destructive and exploitive.

China's deliberate trade violations are draining America's strength. Beijing is to America what Delilah was to Sampson.

Top U.S. trade officials are in China this week in high-stakes negotiations to curb China's illegal trade practices and restore American vigor. They are scheduled to meet Friday with Chinese President Xi Jinping. They're talking tough, which is appropriate since no previous agreement and no previous penalties have even dinged China's free-market-defying trade regime. But then, President Trump let slip earlier this week that he would consider postponing a tariff increase scheduled for March 1 if no deal is reached. Delay means nothing but additional strength shorn from America.

The white-shoe bankers and lawyers on Wall Street don't see it, and few politicians in Washington, D.C. care. But voters in America's industrial heartland suffered the consequences of China's massive and persistent trade violations. Good, family-supporting manufacturing jobs disappeared. Pay for those lucky enough to retain jobs has stagnated for more than two decades. Once-thriving communities decayed as China drained American wealth.

Trade is supposed to be a symbiotic relationship, both sides benefitting. But trade with China is a parasitic relationship. America's ever-rising trade deficit with China is the clear evidence of that. Despite tariffs on aluminum and steel and additional levies on more than \$250 billion in Chinese exports to the United States, America's trade deficit with China spiked again last year.

The U.S. figures aren't available yet, but China says the trade deficit in 2018 was \$323 billion, as Chinese exports to the U.S. increased 11.8 percent over the 2017 figure. Meanwhile, U.S. exports to China inched up a paltry 0.7 percent. If China's figure is correct, it's a 10-year high. The monthly deficits in October and November set all-time records.

What this means is that exploited workers in China are employed making the cameras, clothes, televisions and trinkets that Americans buy. And they're doing it in Chinese factories that pollute with abandon. It means Americans are not manufacturing those things; Americans no longer have those jobs.

The ever-growing trade deficit since China joined the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001 cost American workers 3.4 million jobs, three-quarters of them in manufacturing. Directly impacted workers lost income amounting to \$37 billion a year between 2001 and 2011.

Those losses are caused not just by China's poverty wages and freedom to pollute. It's much more. China's central and regional governments subsidize industries in ways that violate WTO regulations requiring free, open and competitive markets. These governmental officials provide free land, "loans" that don't have to be repaid, free and underpriced raw materials and many other financial perks to industry in China.

This market intervention promotes expansion of industries even when there is no demand for the products. Aluminum is a good example. Chinese government subsidies enabled China to become the world's largest producer between 2000 and 2011, even though aluminum smelting requires massive amounts of electricity, and that utility is relatively expensive in China. Then, with the benefit of subsidies, China doubled its aluminum output between 2011 and 2015.

China dumped the excess metal on the international market, depressing prices and bankrupting smelters in the United States. As China ramped up, 18 of 23 U.S. smelters closed and 13,000 good, family-supporting jobs disappeared.

U.S. steel producers suffered similar losses as China subsidized more and more steelmaking capacity. Between 200 and 2016, the United States lost 48,000 steel jobs.

In addition, China manipulates its currency, devaluing it so that its exports are artificially cheap and American imports are falsely expensive. China forces U.S. corporations that want to operate there to transfer valuable technological information. And China engages in cyber theft of U.S. corporate trade secrets. In addition to firms viewed as high-tech like Moody's Analytics and Siemens, two U.S. steel corporations and a major aluminum company were victims cyber theft by Chinese military hackers.

Industrial development is a lot cheaper when the technology is stolen.

The United States has responded over time by placing tariffs on hundreds of imported products, including 161 types of illegally dumped foreign steel. But China subverts these penalties by transshipping – that is, sending the product to another country, claiming it was made there, then shipping it to the United States duty-free – and by switching to production of different, non-tariffed steel products.

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"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

China: An Abusive Trade Partner—By Leo W. Gerard, USW International President - continued from page 9

Finally, last spring, the Trump administration placed blanket tariffs on all imported steel and aluminum to preserve the U.S. industries that are crucial for national security. In July, it placed 25 percent tariffs on \$50 billion in Chinese exports to the United States, and in September, it imposed 10 percent tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese exports to the United States. The penalties on the \$200 billion were to rise to 25 percent on Jan. 1, but the administration delayed that date to March 1 as negotiations with China for resolution of the trade disputes continued.

Both of these efforts, however, have been sabotaged. The U.S. Commerce Department granted massive exemptions to importers of Chinese aluminum and steel. Now, a whopping 86 percent of Chinese aluminum exports to the United States and 40 percent of Chinese steel exports to the United States are excluded from the tariffs, rendering them feeble as penalties.

In addition, since the administration imposed the aluminum and steel tariffs, China's currency value, which is controlled by the government, declined by 10 percent against the dollar. That offset all of the tariffs the administration imposed on China last year and fueled the trade deficit records. President Trump swore repeatedly on the campaign trail that he would designate China a currency manipulator on day one in office. The administration has done nothing, however, about the current manipulation.

When the WTO agreed to admit China, the Asian giant agreed to abide by free market trade principles, operate under a rules-based trade regime and open its massive market to foreign businesses. Nearly 20 years later, it still has not honored those pledges.

The U.S. administration is right in its current negotiations to demand enforcement mechanisms because China's promises have proven worthless. U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer is right to stand tough in negotiations, saying earlier this month:

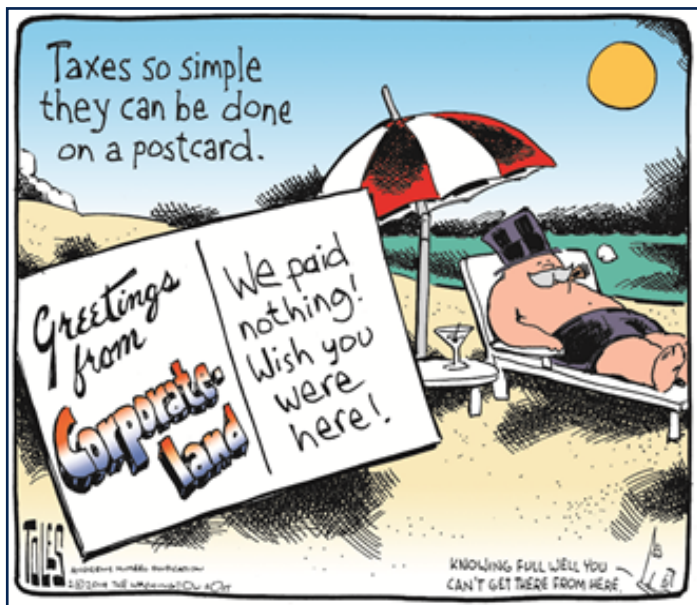
"Until China transforms its approach to the economy and trade, the United States will take all appropriate actions to ensure that the costs of China's non-market economic system are borne by China, not by the United States."

The United States could use a partner to gain maximum strength in this effort. Canada is the obvious choice.

Just like the United States, Canada has been weakened by China's trade cheating. The two countries share many trade problems, including the loss of manufacturing jobs to Mexico, with its lax labor and environmental regulations. GM, for example, just announced it would cut manufacturing and 14,800 jobs in the United States and Canada, but none in Mexico or China.

To get Canada's cooperation, the United States would have to exempt it from the steel and aluminum tariffs. Canada, a close free-market trading partner to the United States, never should have been subjected to those tariffs anyway.

Not So Funny Political Cartoons



"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"