



MICHAEL H. BOLTON, DIRECTOR

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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	LUF	Sector	Email Address
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**United Steelworkers District 2
AFL-CIO-CLC**

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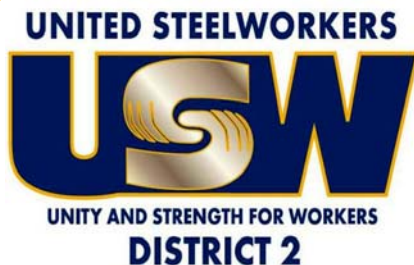
Contributors to this issue include:

Lon Gulekunt, Tammy Duncan, Jay McMullan, Linda Lucas,
Annie Kamie (New York Times), USW New Media,
Union Review, USW News, The History Channel

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

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



NEWS

MARCH 2019 • VOLUME 9, ISSUE 3, PAGE 1

"Congress Needs to Act and Restore the Working Class' American Dream"

A Message from Michael Bolton



Since the last election, we should all be tired of playing defense when it comes to legislation coming out of Washington D.C. and our state capitols. While we will get some relief with the election of Democratic governors in Wisconsin and Michigan, we are still facing hostile legislatures in both states. Organized Labor is going to have to remain vigilant and be prepared to counter more right wing attacks.

With the Republicans still hanging on to the majority in the U.S. Senate, chances are the working class will be forgotten about again. However, with Democrats taking control of the House of Representatives, we have an excellent opportunity to pass some party defining legislation that, for a change, will benefit workers and their families. It is my hope the House does not get so bogged down in Trump investigations that it forgets about doing the people's business. Democrats now have an opportunity to take advantage of showing meaningful differences between the Democrats and Republicans by acting upon a ton of important pending issues, such as:

- **Multi-Employer Pension Plans:** Because the U.S. has chosen to pursue trade agreements that encourage employers to exploit cheap labor in foreign countries, membership in multi-employer pension plans has taken a severe hit. The decrease in participation has put tremendous strain on existing plans and has resulted in a huge strain on government safety nets such as the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation (PBGC). Something has to be done to prop up these plans to protect the retirement benefits of millions of American workers.
- U.S. Representative, Dan Kildee (Democrat from Michigan), was recently appointed to the House Ways and Means Committee. This committee handles pension, Social Security and Medicare issues. It is leading the effort to pass legislation to shore up the PBGC and multi-employer pensions. The good news is that the proposed legislation tackles the

problem by issuing low-interest loans to plans in trouble. These loans are made using revenue raised through the sale of bonds, which means no tax dollars will be directly used to ensure the low-term viability of the plans.

- **Real Tax Reform:** Ever since the "Trickle Down Economic" days of the Reagan/Stockman Era, Republicans have given no strings attached tax breaks to corporations and our country's richest individuals. The theory being that beneficiaries of those tax breaks would invest their savings to create new demand for goods and services, which would open a Pandora's Box of job creation in America. Unfortunately, the trickle never made it that far down. Instead, investors put their money in companies overseas or used the tax savings to buy back company stock. In fact, a recent poll of corporations showed 74% of those surveyed admitted the 2017 Trump Tax Cuts have done nothing to change their investment strategies.

We see that tax cuts do not produce the desired outcome. So, why does Washington keep doing this knowing they are going to get the same results? It's time to change the tax code and use it to influence good behavior on the part of corporations.

To accomplish this, why doesn't Washington just set a fixed rate? Once that rate is set, Congress, instead of just cutting taxes, would offer businesses an opportunity to lower their tax rates.

These tax breaks could be a vehicle to create a degree of job security for American workers. I don't think there is an industrial worker in the United States today that does not live in fear that his/her employer will be the next to move overseas.

Using the method I described above, companies can achieve further tax breaks by investing in their production facilities. The amount of the tax cut would be linked to the amount of the investment made. The rationale being that a company dumping a few million dollars into its plant in Milwaukee is less likely to shut that factory down and head to Bangladesh.

Tax cuts for corporations could be used to influence good behavior in a number of areas. The point is, don't just give away tax cuts and hope for

— Continued on Page 2 —

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

Did you know?

Fortune 500 corporations are avoiding up to \$767 billion in U.S. federal income taxes by holding \$2.6 of "permanently reinvested" profits offshore.

Union members helped build the tallest skyscraper in the western hemisphere. Newly constructed Freedom Tower, was built on the site of the World Trade Center building.

It is time for America's infrastructure to once again be the envy of the world. Neglect of our roads, bridges and transportation systems is "so pervasive", it threatens our economic future."



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**

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HAVE YOU BEEN TO DISTRICT 2'S
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www.facebook.com/USWDistrict2

A Message from Director Bolton - continued from page 1

the best. Make corporations work for their savings. Tie taxes to policy the entire economy benefits from.

This month, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer proposed a 45¢ per gallon gas tax increase to fund repairing the state's crumbling roads and bridges. The dilemma is the state's funding has been squeezed for so long that updating our infrastructure problems have become out of reach for most state and local governments. It's time for the federal government to get involved. Republican President Dwight Eisenhower recognized both the need and the benefit of launching a national highway system. His investment in creating the freeways we take for granted today has had a two-fold benefit for our country.

First, it provided a safe and reliable network of roadways to move families and conduct business between states.

Second, the construction pumped millions of dollars into the federal, state and local economies. Those were good-paying Union jobs the investment was creating. The workers went out and spent their wages on groceries, new homes, cars, entertainment, and clothing. In short, their spending increased the demand for goods and services and that demand led to the creation of more jobs in the private sector.

During his campaign for president, Donald Trump pledged a huge investment to improve our infrastructure. Unfortunately, as the President has been sidetracked by other issues, he has lost sight of a number of his promises. However, Democrats can pick up the issue and run with it. We need both a long-term and short-term plan to address the massive decay we face. But one thing is for sure, no matter how much is spent, it will be an investment that carries a very large return.

And while we're talking about issues the President has lost focus of, trade is a big one. I believe it's safe to say every one of you reading this column knows someone who has lost their job due to bad trade agreements. For 30 years, millions of family-supporting jobs have been moved off shore to take advantage of low-wage workers in other countries. Worst of all, the situation isn't improving. After three decades of job loss, our government hasn't taken a single step to end the job hemorrhaging. However, the Democratic House could pass legislation directing the Commerce Department and the U.S. Trade Representative to renegotiate all existing trade agreements. In order to ensure the agreements work for every American, Congress should require all future trade deals include:

#1: Strong and enforceable Union rights for workers in the countries we trade with. Having the right to join a Union and to engage in collective bargaining is the only way to level the playing field by ensuring workers in all the nations involved receive a living wage and enjoy safe working conditions.

#2: Every trade pact must include provisions that protect human rights. No worker is disposable. We all have certain rights that must be respected.

In establishing these rights in a universal way, employers would have to recognize workers as their equals. It would also end the practices of child and prison labor by rogue companies across the globe. Workers in America should never have to compete against those who are forced to work for free.

#3: Strong and Enforceable Environmental Standards. Regardless of your position on global warming, there is no debate the U.S. has strong environmental standards aimed at protecting our planet from the dangers of pollution which have added millions of dollars to the cost of building production facilities in the United States. Therefore, corporations have opted to build their factories in countries with little or no regulations to avoid the additional expense. This problem can never be rectified until all

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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

MAY

- 1 USW District 2 Lobby Day (Wisconsin)**
Capitol Building (North Wing), 2 East Main Street • Madison, WI
- 5-10 USW District 2 Union Leadership Development Course Levels I and II**
Landmark Resort, 4929 Landmark Drive • Egg Harbor, WI

MAY continued

- 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)**
Michigan State AFL-CIO Office, 419 South Washington Square, Suite 200 • Lansing, MI
- 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

- 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 District 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**
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 Dist. 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

countries are playing by the same rules. Our trading partners must agree that we have only one planet and all nations share the responsibility of making sure it is still around for generations to come.

There are a number of other issues Congress needs to act upon to restore the working class' American Dream. We have been locked in the Trickle Down Economy for over 30 years. It has brought three decades of wage stagnation and legislation, benefitting only the 1%. It's time to start enacting legislation that benefits working families. The people who spend their pay checks to create greater demand and an economy that works for everyone - rich or poor!

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

Last month we talked about Reverse Loans and what they really mean to seniors. We also advised that there are no Reverse Loans that are endorsed by the Labor Movement and recommended you use caution if you should decide to enter into a loan agreement. This month, we take a look at some of the things you need to keep an eye out for if pursuing the Reverse Loan option.

First, not all loan providers are honest characters. You really have to be on the lookout for shysters and scammers. For example, less than honest loan brokers have contacted potential 62-year old retirees advising them to use a Reverse Loan to delay receiving Social Security until age 70. The salesperson tells the senior that the Reverse Loan will provide a monthly support while allowing future Social Security payments to grow to the maximum result. Beware, the increase may not be as much as you might think and the hidden costs of the loan may eat up all the equity you have in your home.

As we have advised before, third parties may coach you into getting Reverse Mortgage Loans for unnecessary expenses. For example, a home contractor who targets seniors to make household repairs they really do not need. To finance the project, they will recommend a Reverse Mortgage. In some instances, they have even demanded full payment up front and ran off with the money.

To avoid any potential scams, *never* rush into an expense without getting a second opinion. Your home is the biggest investment you have made during your working life. Do not jeopardize it needlessly. Call another contractor and get their input.

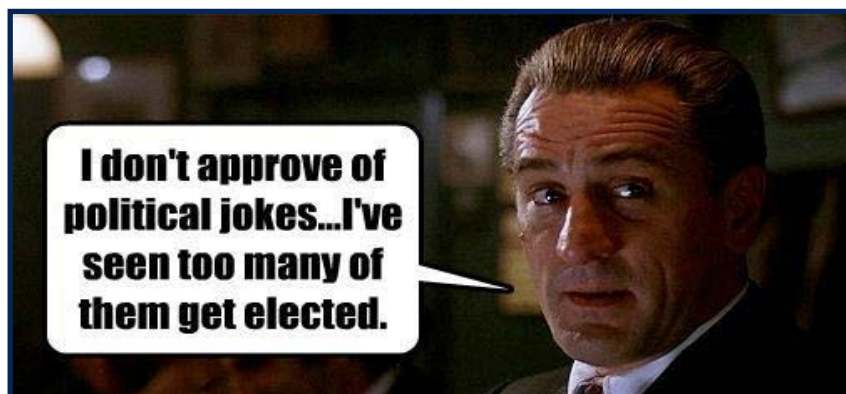
Before taking out a Reverse Mortgage Loan, District 2 SOAR advises you to contact a housing counselor certified by the Office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Make sure:

- You have adequate income to maintain taxes, insurance and to maintain the property. Remember, you could lose the home if you are delinquent on taxes or the house falls into disrepair.
- You check with the Better Business Bureau to ensure you are dealing with a reputable lender.
- You read the fine print. Some lenders bury added costs in the agreement.

Again, do not let yourself be duped. Read what you are signing. Better yet, have a financial adviser take a look at it to steer you in the right direction.



Not So Funny Political Cartoons



"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

USW President Emeritus Boyd Young Dies - Retired Activist Led PACE, Paperworkers Unions through Historic Mergers



PITTSBURGH (March 12) – Boyd Young, the Steelworkers president emeritus who guided two of the USW's predecessor unions, PACE and the UPIU, through historic mergers, died on Monday, March 11.

Young was a union activist for more than five decades, starting in 1960 as a member of the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite & Paper Mill Workers Local 801 at East Texas Pulp & Paper Co., where he was elected local union president in 1971. Young organized paperworkers throughout the southern United States for the United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU). He served as a UPIU staff representative and regional director before his election as UPIU president in 1996.

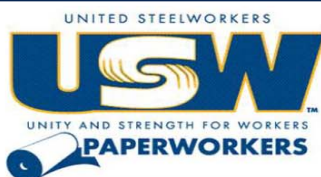
"Boyd Young never wavered from his deeply held commitment to building better lives for working people through the labor movement," said USW International President Leo W. Gerard. "He provided steadfast leadership and vision at a time when workers needed it the most. Every member of the USW owes him a debt of gratitude. He will be missed."

As UPIU president, Young consistently sought to increase workers' bargaining power. With that goal in mind, he led his union through a merger with the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) in 1999, creating the Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical and Energy Workers International Union (PACE). Young became the president of the new union, which merged with the Steelworkers in 2005 to form the USW.

"Boyd's dedication and sense of purpose made the USW the union we are today," Gerard said. Young was responsible for creating the union's Emergency Response Team, which provides members, families and co-workers with immediate assistance after life-altering workplace injuries and fatalities, and for establishing the union's coordinated bargaining program in response to growing consolidation in the paper industry. He also served as a vice president of the AFL-CIO.

"While we feel a deep sadness at Boyd's passing, we also feel a strong sense of gratitude for his dedication to the labor movement and to the cause of fairness and justice," Gerard said. "His was a life well lived."

Letter to All USW Paper Sector Local Unions - From Leo W. Gerard, USW International President



To: All USW Paper Sector Local Unions

Brothers and Sisters,

It is with regret and deep sadness that we write to inform you of the passing of USW International President Emeritus (and former PACE and UPIU International President) Boyd Young. Boyd had been battling a severely disabling illness over the last few years and the only relief in our heartbreak and that of his wife, Charlie Faye, and his son, Boyd D. Young, Jr. (Danny), is that he is no longer suffering and is at peace.

Many current (and retired) Local Union officers in the Paper Sector will remember Boyd for his stalwart leadership, determination and vision, and as the true Texas gentleman that he was who dispatched his duties with grace, grit and humility.

The son of a union carpenter, Boyd first walked onto a mill floor in September 1960 at the age of 20 as a paper machine utility worker at the East Texas Pulp & Paper Co. in Evadale, Texas, then owned by Time, Inc., which became MeadWestvaco over the years and is now WestRock. His father instructed him that the first thing he must do is to find the shop steward and join the Union, and so he immediately became a member of the Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite & Paper Mill Workers (now USW Local 801).

Boyd regularly attended union meetings but was not active until a near-strike at the mill in 1965

— Continued on Page 6 —

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

Letter to All USW Paper Sector Local Unions - From Leo W. Gerard, USW International President - continued from page 5

Boyd regularly attended union meetings but was not active until a near-strike at the mill in 1965 cemented his role as a union activist. Soon after, he became Chief Shop Steward and he was elected President of Local 801 in 1971. As Local 801 President, his insistence of the right to political speech at work resulted in a landmark NLRB case establishing the right to solicit members in non-work areas, during non-work times on political issues impacting their workplace rights.

Boyd soon moved onto the staff as an organizer and organized many paper mills and box factories in Texas and Louisiana that still enjoy representation today before becoming a Staff Representative and shortly thereafter the UPIU Region 6 Director where he led the International Paper Union Council among many others.

In 1996, he was overwhelmingly elected UPIU International President where he quickly sought out mergers with the Allied Industrial Workers (AIW) and the merger with the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Worker (OCAW) in 1999 to form the Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical and Energy Workers International Union.

In his time leading the International Union, he founded the Emergency Response Team (ERT) that lives on in his memory today and provides immediate response to our members, their families and local leaders when one of our own suffers a life altering injury or a fatality in the workplace. Boyd was proactive safety programs forward in the industry.

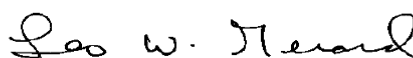
In 2003, Boyd established the Paper Sector Bargaining Program to challenge the paper industry's coordinated bargaining program with our own. A veteran of the paper battles, strikes and lockouts of the 1980s where paper companies often picked off locals one-by-one to entrench their desires and resisted common table bargaining and pool votes, Boyd approached this task with innovation and the absolute assurance that our members were better off confronting that corporate agenda together through coordinated bargaining.

It was this passion that drove Boyd to pursue a merger with the USWA in 2005, a mere 6 years after the merger to form PACE, not because it was easy, but because it was the right thing to do for the membership. He saw the USWA's expertise in coordinated bargaining, legislative and political action and safety and knew PACE members would only benefit from it.

At the Convention to form the USW itself, Boyd displayed his humility, selflessness and passion for the success of the new Union by announcing without any prior notice that he would be stepping down from his International Executive Vice President position as the USW could only have one International President and the members deserved clarity of leadership.

This letter serves as a mere snapshot of Boyd's union life well-lived. We know you will join all of us in sending our deepest sympathies in our shared loss to Charlie Faye, Danny and the entire Young family. As we all also absorb this loss to our movement, we must recommit ourselves to Boyd's passion and purposes; his work will live on through our shared purpose together.

In solidarity,



Leo Gerard
International President



Jon Geenen
International Vice President



Leeann Foster
Asst. to the International President

This Month in History: 1965 • Martin Luther King, Jr. begins the march from Selma to Montgomery - The History Channel



In the name of African-American voting rights, 3,200 civil rights demonstrators in Alabama, led by Martin Luther King Jr., begin a historic march from Selma to Montgomery, the state's capital. Federalized Alabama National Guardsmen and FBI agents were on hand to provide safe passage for the march, which twice had been turned back by Alabama state police at Selma's Edmund Pettus Bridge.

In 1965, King and his Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) decided to make the small town of Selma the focus of their drive to win voting rights for African Americans in the South. Alabama's governor,

George Wallace, was a vocal opponent of the African-American civil rights movement, and local authorities in Selma had consistently thwarted efforts by the Dallas County Voters League and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) to register local blacks.

Although Governor Wallace promised to prevent it from going forward, on March 7 some 500 demonstrators, led by SCLC leader Hosea Williams and SNCC leader John Lewis, began the 54-mile march to the state capital. After crossing Edmund Pettus Bridge, they were met by Alabama state troopers and posse men who attacked them with nightsticks, tear gas and whips after they refused to turn back.

Several of the protesters were severely beaten, and others ran for their lives. The incident was captured on national television and outraged many Americans. King, who was in Atlanta at the time, promised to return to Selma immediately and lead another attempt. On March 9, King led another marching attempt, but turned the marchers around when state troopers again blocked the road.

On March 21, U.S. Army troops and federalized Alabama National Guardsmen escorted the marchers across Edmund Pettus Bridge and down Highway 80. When the highway narrowed to two lanes, only 300 marchers were permitted, but thousands more rejoined the Alabama Freedom March as it came into Montgomery on March 25.

On the steps of the Alabama State Capitol, King addressed live television cameras and a crowd of 25,000, just a few hundred feet from the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, where he got his start as a minister in 1954.

This Month in History: 1933 • FDR broadcasts first 'fireside chat' during the Great Depression - The History Channel



On this day in 1933, eight days after his inauguration, President Franklin D. Roosevelt gives his first national radio address—or "fireside chat"—broadcast directly from the White House.

Roosevelt began that first address simply: "I want to talk for a few minutes with the people of the United States about banking." He went on to explain his recent decision to close the nation's banks in order to stop a surge in mass withdrawals by panicked investors worried about possible bank failures. The banks would be reopening the next day, Roosevelt said, and he thanked the public for their "fortitude and good temper" during the "banking holiday."

At the time, the U.S. was at the lowest point of the Great Depression, with between 25 and 33 percent of the workforce unemployed. The nation was worried, and Roosevelt's address was designed to ease fears and to inspire confidence in his leadership. Roosevelt went on to deliver 30 more of these broadcasts between March 1933 and June 1944. They reached an astonishing number of American households, 90 percent of which owned a radio at the time.

Journalist Robert Trout coined the phrase "fireside chat" to describe Roosevelt's radio addresses, invoking an image of the president sitting by a fire in a living room, speaking earnestly to the American people about his hopes and dreams for the nation. In fact, Roosevelt took great care to make sure each address was accessible and understandable to ordinary Americans, regardless of their level of education. He used simple vocabulary and relied on folksy anecdotes or analogies to explain the often complex issues facing the country.

Over the course of his historic 12-year presidency, Roosevelt used the chats to build popular support for his groundbreaking New Deal policies, in the face of stiff opposition from big business and other groups. After World War II began, he used them to explain his administration's wartime policies to the American people. The success of Roosevelt's chats was evident not only in his three re-elections, but also in the millions of letters that flooded the White House. Farmers, business owners, men, women, rich, poor—most of them expressed the feeling that the president had entered their home and spoken directly to them. In an era when presidents had previously communicated with their citizens almost exclusively through spokespeople and journalists, it was an unprecedented step.

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

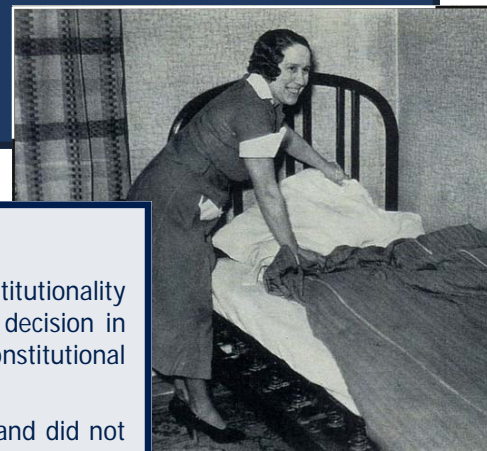
This Month in Labor History: March 1933 and March 1937 - *Union Review*



This month in labor history, March 4, 1933 (pictured left):

Frances Perkins is appointed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as Secretary of Labor. Legislation brought about under her administration included the National Labor Relations Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, and the Social Security Act.

Perkins was the first woman Cabinet member and worked in that position for 12 years.



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

Michigan Women of Steel - Submitted by Linda Lucas



On Friday, March 22, Michigan State Trooper Austin DeClercq spoke on human trafficking during the Detroit Area's Women of Steel Council meeting held at the Southern Michigan Sub-District 2 Office in Taylor.

Human trafficking is modern day slavery and involves the use of force, fraud and/or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Trooper DeClercq stressed the importance of knowing what is on your child's phone.

Pictured left is a group photo of participants who took part in the Southern Michigan Women of Steel Meeting.

Michigan Women of Steel Continued - Submitted by Linda Lucas

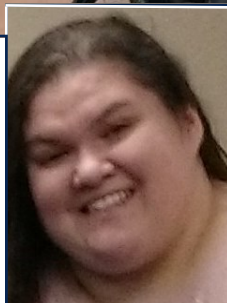


The Central Area Women of Steel Council filled purses with needed items which will be given to homeless women.

Many of these women receiving these purses are veterans of our Armed Forces who served our country's military. (pictured left).



The Women of Steel Committee from USW Local 1900, headed by Sister Marge Walls, made plastic flower bouquets to adorn the company fence for a fallen co-worker, Daniel Hill, who recently died in an industrial accident at Michigan Seamless Tube in South Lyon, Michigan, on February 9, 2019. (pictured above)



Ashley Boyles (pictured left) of USW Local 2-585 recently headed up a 50/50 drawing that raised a total of \$1,530.

The money was raised for a co-worker who suffered three brain aneurysms.

Local 9899 Donates to Saginaw Veterans Hospital

Representatives from USW Local 9899 - St. Mary's Hospital located in Saginaw, Michigan, took up a collection this winter in support of the area veterans hospital. Last week, they were able to donate nearly 100 pairs of socks.

Local 9899 President Jackie Anklam stated the local plans to continue supporting the hospital and efforts to provide veterans, especially homeless veterans, with various personal items they may need. These items include deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes and toothpaste as well as gloves, hats and socks.



USW Members Call on Congress to Protect Multiemployer Pensions - USW News



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Thursday, March 7, 2019

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Bill Would Create Low-Interest Loan Program to Bolster Retirement Funds

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 7) – Members of the United Steelworkers (USW) union visited Capitol Hill today to attend a U.S. House subcommittee hearing on the crisis facing multiemployer pension plans and to urge Congress to act to protect workers' retirement funds.

Two dozen USW members and retirees attended today's House Subcommittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions hearing entitled "The Cost of Inaction: Why Congress Must Address the Multiemployer Pension Crisis," and later visited with members of Congress to urge action to preserve workers' pensions, particularly multiemployer plans. In particular, the workers urged Congress to pass H.R. 397, the Rehabilitation for Multiemployer Pensions Act, also known as the "Butch-Lewis Act."

The bipartisan House bill, sponsored by U.S. Rep. Richard Neal, a Massachusetts Democrat, would help to protect workers' retirements by selling bonds and using the funds to bolster struggling multiemployer pensions through a long-term, low-interest loan program.

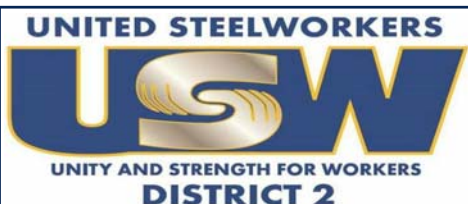
"A number of multiemployer plans are in financial distress – but their problems have nothing to do with these workers and their families," said USW International President Leo W. Gerard. "Retirees shouldn't suffer because of bad trade policy, or poor business decisions, or because of lingering fallout from the Great Recession. This bill would make sure that American workers get the secure retirements they deserve."

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown, an Ohio Democrat, introduced a version of the "Butch-Lewis Act" in 2017.

Gerard wrote about the pension issue in his weekly blog, which readers can find at www.usw.org/blog. The USW also produced a video that includes personal stories about workers and retirees who are at risk of losing their pensions. Viewers can find that video at www.usw.org/protectourpensions.

"Too many American workers and retirees now live in fear that they may not receive the benefits they worked their entire lives to earn," said David McCall, director of USW District 1, which represents thousands of USW members in the state of Ohio. "This bill would provide critical funding to troubled plans and provide security for millions of American workers and retirees."

*The USW represents 850,000 workers in North America employed in many industries that include metals, rubber, chemicals, paper, oil refining and the service and public sectors.
For more information: <http://www.usw.org/>.*



"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

Companies Falsely Labeled Products 'Made in U.S.A.' Their Financial Penalty? \$0. - By Annie Karni, New York Times

March 5, 2019 • WASHINGTON — Patriot Puck, a New York-based company, wrapped its hockey pucks in American flags, declaring them "The Only American Made Hockey Puck!" The mattress firm Nectar Sleep, founded by Silicon Valley entrepreneurs, promoted its mattresses as "designed and assembled in the U.S.A."

Two California-based manufacturers of deployment bags, tactical gear and other merchandise marketed to active and retired American military personnel sold the products online as #MadeInUSA, and inserted "American Made" tags into its products. In reality, most of the products were manufactured entirely in China, according to the Federal Trade Commission.

Last fall, the F.T.C. determined that all four companies had violated federal law by engaging in "unfair or deceptive acts" and falsely marketing their goods as American-made. But while President Trump has accused China of destroying American jobs and prioritized strengthening United States manufacturing, his appointees at the F.T.C. did little to punish the firms. The companies faced no fines and were not required to admit any wrongdoing or to notify customers of their false marketing. The trade commission entered into proposed consent agreements with each firm barring them from falsely marketing their products with the threat of fines if they violated the agreement. A final decision on the penalties is expected in the coming weeks after a public comment period ends.

The trade commission's treatment of the companies has angered Democratic lawmakers, who are urging the Trump administration to pursue tougher punishments for companies that profit by producing products in China and falsely labeling them as American-made.

"We call on the commission to do more to protect American manufacturers and consumers," a group of senators wrote to the F.T.C. last month. Senators Chris Murphy of Connecticut, Sherrod Brown of Ohio and Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin asked the agency to "provide specific insights about the commission's decision to seek no consequences in these brazen instances of fraudulently labeling goods as 'Made in the USA.'"

From the campaign trail to the White House, Mr. Trump has directed much of his focus to rebuilding American jobs and industries. In April 2017, Mr. Trump signed a "Buy American and Hire American" executive order, with the goal of promoting the use of "American-made goods and to ensure that American labor is hired to do the job."

Mr. Trump has put a particular focus on revitalizing American manufacturing, which he says has been decimated by cheap Chinese labor and materials. That has Democrats questioning why the agency is not being more aggressive in going after American companies that manufacture their goods in China. "Many companies that manufacture at home are already treading water," Rohit Chopra, a Democratic F.T.C. commissioner who disagreed with the decision, said in an interview. "American companies shouldn't lose out to corporate cheaters who lie on their labels."

Mr. Brown, who is considering running for president, said the agency's penalty did not match the severity of the companies' behavior. "If companies that break our laws do not face financial penalties, then our American manufacturers are severely undermined," Mr. Brown said. "We need stronger enforcement by the F.T.C. and greater transparency when it comes to the commission's actions to crack down on these violators."

Some agency officials, including one of its two Democratic commissioners, defended the settlement, saying that the threat of future penalties was a strong deterrent. The companies face a \$40,000 penalty per violation if they are caught making false claims again. And officials said the agency did not seek monetary relief, in part, because there was no "price premium," meaning the goods were not more expensive than similar products sold by competitors, who also imported their products but did not falsely label them as American-made.

"In our view, a thoughtful review and forward-looking plan is a more effective and efficient use of commission resources than reopening and relitigating the cases before us today," Joseph J. Simons, the F.T.C. chairman, and Rebecca Kelly Slaughter, a Democratic commissioner, wrote in a statement in September.

But at least one company has complained to the commission, alleging in a letter that the backpack manufacturer's misleading claim cost it lucrative contracts. "Sandpiper caused confusion to at least one organizational buyer at the Army and Air Force Exchange Service looking for 'Made in the USA' products," Alan Watts, a lawyer representing a competing company, Advantus, wrote to the commission in October. "This caused a very real unfair competitive disadvantage to Advantus whose compliance with the law caused it to lose sales."

The F.T.C. has a long history of weak enforcement in "Made in America" cases that preceded Mr. Trump's tenure. The commission lists on its website 26 "Made in America" cases it has reviewed since 1999. In some of those cases, companies have agreed to a monetary settlement. In 2016, for instance, Chemence, a specialty chemical company, agreed to pay \$220,000 to resolve an agency lawsuit. But in many other cases, the settlements required only record-keeping and reporting requirements to make sure companies did not violate the law again.

The commission first found out about the false "Made in America" claims made by the four companies in question now through a dedicated complaint line, according to James Kohm, associate director of the enforcement division for the Bureau of Consumer Protection.

Mr. Kohm, in an interview, noted that Patriot Pucks went out of business shortly after the F.T.C.'s first ruling in September, and that Sandpiper, one of the tactical gear manufacturers, was sold to a new owner last fall while the company was involved in litigation with the commission.

"We've reached a preliminary agreement, whereby the company has not been required to admit any liability," said a lawyer representing Piper Gear, the second tactical gear maker. He said he could not comment further because the settlement was not final. After a public comment period, which included the questions from lawmakers on Capitol Hill, the commission is expected to issue a final notice on the cases in the coming weeks. The senators, along with Mr. Chopra, are pressing to change the settlement to further penalize the wrongdoers.

"The commission should consider remedies tailored to the individual circumstances of the fraud, including redress and notice for consumers, of ill-gotten gains, opt-in return programs, or admissions of wrongdoing," Mr. Chopra wrote in a dissenting statement.

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"