



WOMEN OF STEEL NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2024

FROM THE UNION

Level up your labor education with USW's Teaching Tuesday classes

One of the most beneficial aspects of being in a union is education. Make sure to check out the upcoming schedule for the USW Education Department's "Teaching Tuesdays" classes that members can attend from the comfort of their homes.

All classes are held at either 11 a.m. or 8 p.m. EST, so if you are interested in attending one of the classes, please click on the time that you can attend and register. Sessions cover a variety of topics and run for 90 minutes.

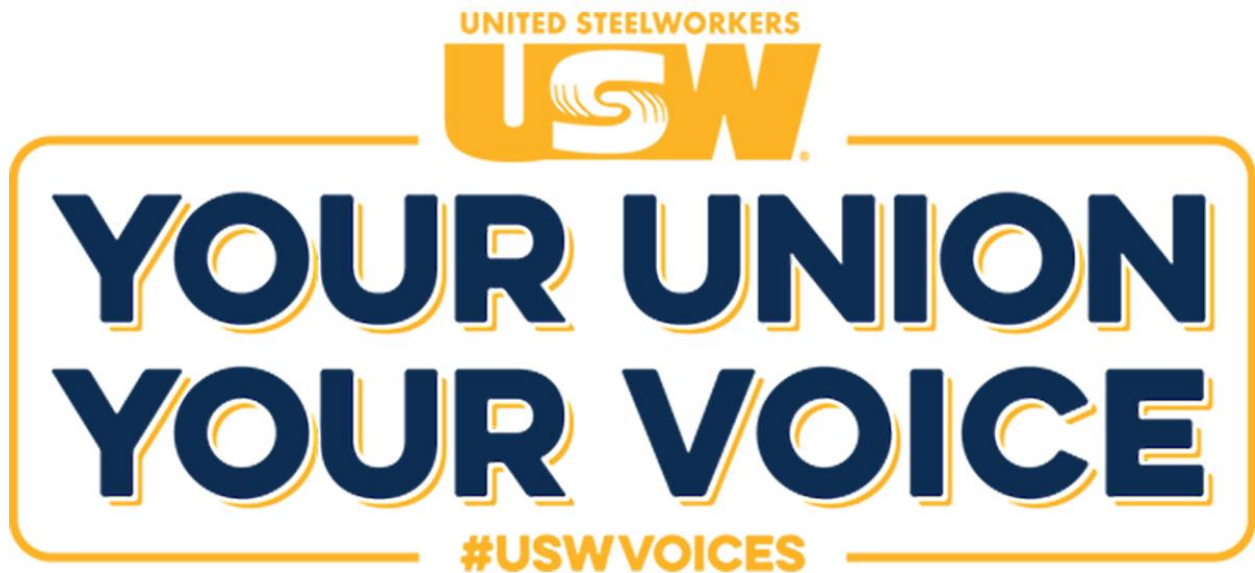
We highly suggest taking the Oct. 15 class on Raising the Bar on Women's Health and Safety, an ongoing program organized by Women of Steel. Many organizations, including the Menopause Society, are uplifting women's health more recently and [connecting the dots between wellness and work](#). We know that addressing these issues makes entire workplaces stronger for everyone.

[Click here to check out the fall and winter schedule!](#)

Election work continues as November closes in

USW members across the United States are gearing up for the 2024 general election this November by canvassing in their neighborhoods and filling out postcards. Make sure to send your postcards back ASAP, and check out uswvoices.org to see how else you can get involved!





You can also [click here to learn more](#) about the union’s core values that are guiding our work.

SISTER STORIES

Local 14300’s Reagan Bengé discovers newfound confidence at District 8 Women’s Conference

Reagan Bengé has worked as a material handler at Jackson Warewashing Systems in Gray, Kent., for three years and has been wanting to get more involved with Local 14300. She knew the USW District 8 Women of Steel Conference this past August was a great way to do just that.

“Our local’s Women of Steel Chair invited me, and at first, I was a little on edge because I’m pretty shy,” Bengé said. “But then I got to learn from other sisters and hear about their experiences, and it really inspired me.”

Bengé’s favorite part of the conference – the District’s first of its kind – was learning about the history of labor and all the sacrifices workers made to grow and strengthen the movement. She’s now ready to help build her local’s Women of Steel committee, which already is well on their way with organizing luncheon fundraisers for workers in need.

“It’s changed the whole factory completely,” said Bengé. “It’s building solidarity.”



Benge is also grateful to have a union job because of the camaraderie that has given her a newfound confidence.

“I feel like I have a backbone now,” she said. “I know my union will have my back.”

One thing Benge is looking forward to is getting more women at the 200-member facility involved and even potentially running for local union office. In the meantime, when Benge isn't at the factory or fundraising with her USW siblings, she loves to work on her Mustang and compete in drag racing competitions.

Her advice to other women who want to get involved in their union but feel too nervous to start?

“If you get the chance, you should definitely take the risk and step up,” Benge said. “If you don't, nothing will change.”