



MICHAEL BOLTON, Director

UNITED STEELWORKERS USW UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS DISTRICT 2

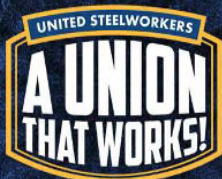
NEWS

NOVEMBER 25, 2014 • VOLUME 4, ISSUE 12 • PAGE 1

Upcoming D2 Events

USW D2 Presidents' (9:00 a.m. to Noon) and Next Generation Meetings (1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.)

- **November 18, 2014**
Flambeau River Paper
200 N. 1st Avenue • Park Falls, WI
- **November 19, 2014**
Lucky Dogz
157 S. Green Bay Road • Neenah, WI
- **November 20, 2014**
Milwaukee Area Labor Council
633 S. Hawley Road • Milwaukee, WI
- **December 16, 2014**
USW D2 Southern MI Sub-District Office
20600 Eureka Rd., Suite 300 • Taylor, MI
- **December 17, 2014**
USW Local 12075 Hall
3510 James Savage Road • Midland, MI
- **December 18, 2014**
Teamsters Local 7 Hall
3330 Miller Road • Kalamazoo, MI



The District 2 Office, as well as all District 2 Sub-District Offices, will be closed from December 24, 2014, through January 2, 2015. Please make note of this in your calendar. —Thank you.



NEWS is published by the

United Steelworkers District 2
AFL-CIO-CLC

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and should be sent to:

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NOVEMBER 30, 2014, is the
deadline for submissions for the next issue.

A Message from Director Michael Bolton



First, on behalf of District 2's staff, clericals, and myself, I would like to wish you and your family a very happy and blessed Thanksgiving.

When gathering with family and friends, consider what the future has in store for the young generation around you. Then, I am sure you will agree that America needs another free trade agreement like it needs another "Great Recession". However, if we're not on our toes and ready to fight, that's just what we may get. In fact, three more FTAs are in the works and could be brought to Congress at any time during the new session, which begins in January. But before they can do that, Congress has to pass "Fast Track." The word on Capitol Hill is that lawmakers may try to pass that during the current "Lame Duck" session.

Fast Track, or Trade Promotion Authority as it is also called, is the law used to pass every failed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) our country has entered into. Originally passed in 1974, TPA limits the role Congress plays in the deal making process. It does that in several ways.

First, Congress is kept in the dark throughout negotiations for an agreement. That means if a deal is struck, our representatives have no idea what is in it until it's sent to them for a vote. Keeping Congress out of the loop was done by design to prevent lawmakers from interfering in the negotiations. Prior to Fast Track, updates regarding trade talks were sent to Congress following every round of negotiations. As a result, if a Senator or Congressperson saw something in the update that could potentially hurt their constituents, they would call the Trade Representative and urge them to drop that section. With over 500 members to deal with, reaching an agreement was nearly impossible. That may sound like it makes sense; however, it denies us a right to know what Congress is about to pass and eliminates the only voice (our elected representatives) the average American has to ensure that trade deals work for us as well as the companies we work for.

Second, it requires Congress to hold a vote, which may not sound like much, but it's a power tool to by-pass the rules of the House and Senate. Under current rules, a bill is introduced and assigned to a committee by the clerk of that body. In committee, the Chairperson decides which bills will be acted on and which will die due to inaction, meaning if a Chairperson was anti-free trade, they could kill the bill by not acting on it. In the Senate, the vote requirement also eliminates any chance of a filibuster.

Next, Fast Track limits debate on the agreement to 20 hours - ten for Democrats and ten for Republicans. Again, it eliminates any possibility of a filibuster and guarantees

that 400 members of the House cannot stand up and rail against the agreement.

Finally, it limits the House and Senate to a straight up or down vote and denies them the right to change or amend the agreement in any way. Hell, they are even prohibited from talking or writing to the Trade Representative to suggest ways to improve the agreement. Again, this deprives us of the only voice we have in the process.

The Constitution is clear that Congress is the only body charged with entering in treaties and regulating interstate and international commerce. By passing Fast Track, Congress is working away from its constitutional duty and putting too much power in the hands of the executive branch regardless of their party affiliation. For all of these reasons, we have to stop Fast Track. Rapid Response is currently involved in an Action to do that. Please call your Representative today and ask them to oppose any effort to pass Fast Track during the current lame duck. A toll free number has been established to help you do that. Simply dial 877-879-8951 then enter your zip code and you will be automatically connected to your Representative. Since the passage of NAFTA in 1994, America has lost 2.5 million jobs and saw over 58,000 factories permanently closed. We cannot afford to lose any more jobs due to failed trade policies. Stopping Fast Track will not be an easy feat since it's backed by political powerhouses like the Chamber of Commerce, Americans for Prosperity (Koch Brothers), and the American Manufacturers' Association. You may recognize those names from Republican political campaign ads this fall. I guess this is what you would call "Pay Back Time." That's why your voice is so important. Please call your Congressperson today and tell them to say no to Fast Track.

Brothers and Sisters if TPA is passed, then three new trade agreements would soon follow. I will go into further details of those agreements in next month's issue of the *USW District 2 News*. But it's important that you know they are a departure from past agreements, which dealt with such issues as quotas, tariffs and market access. The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) (12 nation pact of countries bordering the Pacific Ocean), Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) (an agreement with the nations making up the European Union) and Trade in Services Agreement (TISA) (covering 68% of the world's markets) will have far reaching effects from changing local, state and federal laws, to the privatization of public services, eliminating regulations on financial institutions and continuing the flood of American jobs moving overseas.

In closing, I'd like to offer a variation to the remark that Ross Perot once made about NAFTA. If Fast Track and the three trade agreements are passed, that giant sucking noise will be the sound of the rest of our manufacturing jobs heading overseas. Don't be the first generation of Americans to leave the next generation a country that is weaker than the one we inherited. Call Congress and start fighting back today!

"GO BUILD THE UNION!"

Did you know?

Don't forget to fill your Thanksgiving Day celebration with **Union-made in American goods**. Here's a list of Union-made products for your family.

We're thankful for some of the best **Union-made** Thanksgiving eats and cookware from the **Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers (BCTGM); Glass, Molders, Pottery, Plastics and Allied Workers (GMP); Machinists (IAM); United Steelworkers (USW); and United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW).**

Appetizers

Nabisco (Mondelez) crackers—BCTGM
Keebler (Kellogg) crackers—BCTGM

Turkey

Boar's Head—UFCW
Butterball—UFCW
Foster Farms—UFCW
Thumann's—UFCW

Side Dishes

Ocean Spray whole berry cranberry sauce—IAM
Birds Eye vegetables—UFCW

Bread

Pillsbury crescent rolls, frozen and ready to bake rolls/breads—BCTGM
Pillsbury pie crusts—BCTGM
Stroehmann bakery products (for stuffing)—BCTGM

Dessert

Sara Lee pumpkin, apple pie—BCTGM
Mother's Kitchen cheesecakes—BCTGM
Nabisco (Mondelez) cookies—BCTGM
Rich Products pies and cakes—BCTGM

Cookware/Cutlery

Cutco knives—USW
All-Clad cookware—USW
Corning—USW
Regal Ware—USW
Fiestaware—GMP
Anchor Hocking—GMP

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.

Name	Local	Sector	Email Address
Hawley Warren	1299	Steel and Related	hwarren1299@comcast.net
Dennis DeMeyer Jr.	2-15	Paper	ddemeyer54591@gmail.com
Kevin Bishop	1533	Amalgamated	kbishop2218@gmail.com
Jesse Edwards	2-232	Automotive Related	Jesse_edwards2010@yahoo.com
Kent Holsing	12075	Chemical & Energy Related	kentholsing@gmail.com
Mary Jane Holland	9184	Health Care	mjholland9184@att.net
Mark Lewis	12934	Public	marklewis@oregonlocal12934.com
Dave Page	1327	At Large	dpage004@yahoo.com
Wes White	1327	At Large	wwhite101354@centurytel.net
Jim Whitt	2-145	Allied Industrial	whittjw@yahoo.com



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Have you been to District 2's
Page on Facebook?
www.facebook.com/USWDistrict2

"Why Am I Middle Class?"

This column will become a monthly article where we encourage you to send us a few paragraphs answering the question **"Why Am I Middle Class?"**. Because of space, one will be selected monthly and all others saved for future issues. Below, was written by Jay McMurren.

The "American Dream". We've heard that term a lot during our lifetime, but what does it mean? To most people in the U.S., and those aspiring to get here, it's not a vision of getting rich, it's the hope of living a comfortable "Middle Class" lifestyle. The "Dream" is taking a hit in modern America as the rich get richer and the middle class grows smaller.

I guess if we want to fix that, we have to define what went wrong. Bad trade deals certainly helped by destroying so many jobs. Automation and technology played a role in the job loss we have experienced over the past 30 years. And the trickle down economic policies have played an even greater role in our downward spiral. But those aren't the main reasons that the divide between the rich and poor, it's growing and wage stagnation is persistent. Why are so many people falling from the middle class?

The biggest reason for that is the decline of Unions. Strong Unions that lead to good wages and benefits are what built the middle class. Organized labor is the reason we, whether we belong to a Union or not, enjoy the life we have today. There are numerous facts to support this belief, but we don't have enough time or space to hit them. Research has shown that income rises with productivity. In the past, when Unions were strong, income and productivity increased at the same rate. But as Union density has shrunk, wages are no longer keeping pace. It would be a safe bet that if Union membership in the U.S. was factored in, it would go down at about the same rate as wages.

While stronger Unions might seem like an over simplistic answer to a difficult problem, look at America prior to the 1930's and since the "Reagan Revolution," which began in 1980. Compare those times to the years in between. Union membership was at its peak. Americans were buying homes and cars. They were even purchasing what used to be considered luxury items (without credit cards) and were sending their kids to college (without amassing huge student loan debt). Going bankrupt due to a sickness was never heard of. Permanent Replacement workers, scabs as they were called back then, were rarely used, which gave workers real power at the bargaining table. Also, because of their numbers, when workers spoke - politicians listened! As a result, laws better served citizens at all levels of the income ladder. And it worked, even the rich continued to get richer. It's just that the pie was divided more equally.

Call it over simplistic, but a strong middle class needs a strong labor movement. So, if Washington, Madison and Lansing are serious about fixing our economy, they should stop enacting policies to destroy Unions and start reforming labor laws to level the playing field for workers. Remember, Organized Labor created "The Dream"; and, we're the ones who are going to restore it!

Your USW District 2 Safety CAT Team's Members



Hello, my name is Frank Helebrant. I'm a member of the District 2 CATS Team. CATS stands for **Coordination, Training, Adaptation and Support Team**. Our duties are to determine any safety training to District 2 that are needed. We will train in any area that you need. Whether it be Hazard Mapping, HAZWOPPER, incident investigation and of course, Union Only Health and Safety Committee Training. Your safety at work is my top priority.

I have been a worker trainer since 2006. I received my first training in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In those 8 plus years I have seen many employers that care and many that do not care about your Health and Safety. It's because of those that don't care that I'm so passionate about Health and Safety. It is your right to have a safe workplace and I'm here to be sure that happens.

I come from Local 2-213 in Green Bay, Wisconsin. I work at Little Rapids Corporation. At Little Rapids Corporation, we make disposable medical products. I'm an Industrial Electrician by trade. I have worked for Little Rapids for 31 years. I have been involved in Health and Safety at Little Rapids since the day I was hired.

I have a lot to keep me busy when I'm not working or training. I love to stay active. I play racquetball and tennis, I bike outside in the summer and bike on a trainer in the winter or I will go to the YMCA to workout.

My family is what I'm most proud of. I have been married to my wife, Laurie, for 31 years. We have two daughters. Salena is a teacher in Milwaukee. She spent three years in China teaching English. Kirstin is a nurse and has been married since 2010. Laurie and I became grandparents for the first time 6 months ago and are thrilled to have our little boy, Eli, in our lives.

USW Local 2-460 Holds Fundraisers to Send Area Veterans to Washington D.C.



Never Forgotten Honor Flight is a Wausau based organization formed in November of 2009 that serves 12 counties in northern Wisconsin; Wood, Portage, Marathon, Langlade, Lincoln, Taylor, Rusk, Barron, Oneida, Price, Vilas & Iron. Their goal is simple: to fly veterans in our region who served during World War II, the Korean War or the Vietnam War to Washington, D.C. to visit the memorials erected in their honor. They are an affiliate of the national group Honor Flight Network, which began this activity in 2005, and began flying with commercial charter aircraft in 2006 from Dayton, Ohio.

There are approximately 137 "hubs", or cities, from which these flights originate in 43 states. As of December, 2013, 556 Veterans have flown to see the Memorial in their honor. The most recent flight to Washington D.C. was October 6, 2014. The next scheduled flights are to take place April 27 and May, 2015.



They are supported by private and commercial donors (NO government funding!). They have no paid staff. The volunteers organize and arrange travel to and from Washington. They also coordinate all transportation, activities and meals in Washington.

This is a one-day trip; spending most of the time at the World War II, Korean & Vietnam Memorials. They also visit the Lincoln Memorial, Air Force Memorial, Iwo Jima Memorial (Marine Corps War Memorial), Arlington National Cemetery & the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns. An hour city tour is also part of the day viewing Washington D.C.'s prominent buildings & other Memorials & Monuments. For more information, visit neverforgottenhonorflight.org

Over the last months, USW Local 2-460 in Tomahawk, WI, held several fundraisers to support sending area veterans on this trip. For example, one of our members said they would donate \$100 and challenged nine other individuals or teams to also donate \$100. This challenge was not only met, it was exceeded by over two and a half times the goal. Of all the different type of fundraising activities, the "Challenge" was the most rewarding as people gave money and expected nothing in return.

In addition to the challenge and pot luck dinners, close to 20 different raffles were held throughout the month. Due to the generous nature of our members, nearly \$12,000 is being donated to the Never Forgotten Honor Flight. This amount will support sending 24 area veterans to Washington D.C. to see the memorial in their honor.

Women of Steel USW 4950 Members Raise Funds

Women of Steel members Helen Schmeltz (lt) and Rosanne Turino (rt), of USW Local 4950, presented a check for \$150.00 to Harbor House Director Phyllis Loonsfoot (center) of Marquette County, Michigan.

The money was raised during the Women of Steel Leadership training in Wisconsin Dells.



Recent Protest Sign

