



# CONNECTION

WE'RE STRONGER TOGETHER

## Your top priority...

# RETIREMENT SECURITY THAT INCLUDES SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE AND MEDICAID



#USWVoices

**New Pro-Retiree Majority in Michigan Scraps Pension Tax in Victory for Retirees**



In our last (Jan/Feb) SOAR Chapter Connection, I was excited to report to our readers that the hard work of Steelworker members and retirees helped secure a pro-worker, pro-retiree majority in the United States Senate along with a better-than-expected outcome in the United States House of Representatives, where our union-friendly allies are only slightly outnumbered in the new, 118th Congress.

However, the most noticeable shift in legislatures that I recounted was at the state level, where more voters opted for labor-friendly state governance than at any point since 2010.

This shift was most evident in Michigan, where our efforts and votes helped simultaneously secure the state’s first pro-retiree, pro-worker legislative majority and governor in nearly 40 years.

This swing in governance is a big deal for retirees like you and me because, in March, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed a bill overturning the pension tax, which was signed into law by former Governor Rick Snyder in 2011.

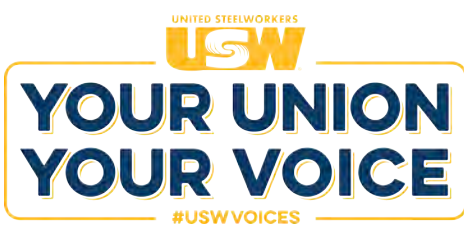
At the time, Whitmer was the minority leader in the state senate. She stood in solidarity with labor/retiree activists who saw the pension tax as a direct attack on the security workers had fought for and won at the bargaining table. And, it was particularly the case considering that Michigan is the 11th most union-dense state in the country.

Upon signing the pension tax repeal, Whitmer said, “Seniors had money that was promised to them taken out of their hands. Working families who were a missed paycheck away from poverty had a lifeline pulled away. It was wrong then, and today we are making it right.”

This repeal is not the only news worth celebrating in Michigan, however. There’s a chance that by the time you read this, our allies in the state legislature might also deliver a repeal of the so-called “Right to Work” law to Governor Whitmer’s desk.

She has long promised to sign the legislation if they do.

*Julie Stein*, SOAR Director



Your top priority... Last year, our union asked members and retirees to rate how important different issues were through a survey. Thousands of you took the time to answer the questions and provide additional feedback. The survey results showed your top issue was retirement security, including Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, which comes as no surprise to SOAR members.

**It's That Time of Year When We Will Converge in Washington, D.C., Some Good, Some Not So Good!**



The good is that the 2023 SOAR Executive Board Meeting will be held June 10-11 in conjunction with the 2023 USW Rapid Response, Legislative & Policy Conference on June 11-14. For more information about this Conference, please contact your District Rapid Response Coordinator or SOAR Executive Board Member.

We have contacted the USW District Directors and recommended sending additional SOAR activists to the Conference this year due to the “No Cuts to Retirement Security” campaign we recently rolled out with Rapid Response. The bad, as always, is that some of our legislators seem to think programs like Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid are entitlements. We need to remind them that these programs are our hard-earned benefits.



We've also contacted all our Chapter Presidents, letting them know that SOAR will lead in this struggle. We ask that all our SOAR Chapters adopt the “No Cuts to Social Safety Net Programs Like Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid.” See beginning on page 15 of this newsletter for information and materials meant for this action.

You can still take action if you are a member but not with a chapter. Rapid Response has made it easy for us; go to <http://usw.to/NoCuts> and show these legislators what our SOAR members are made of!

Legislatively, it's an important year for retirees; let's be prepared to respond to the challenge ahead.

*Bill Pienta*, SOAR President

**Who's New to SOAR?**



Greetings to all from Pittsburgh. We're especially pleased to announce that the SOAR Office has a new administrative assistant. Please welcome Cheryl Omlor, who has joined the SOAR operation effective February 1. Cheryl formerly worked in our union's Local Union Services Dept. and brings with her experience in navigating our union's database, which is already coming in handy as she familiarizes herself with SOAR.

So, the next time you call the office, kindly welcome Cheryl to SOAR! Her office line is 412-562-2578 and her email address is [comlor@usw.org](mailto:comlor@usw.org). Of course, you can always call our toll-free number, 866-208-4420.

**!!! WELCOME CHERYL !!!**

**New SOAR Chapter Dues Refund Option via Electronic Deposit**

SOAR dues refunds can now be electronically deposited into your SOAR Chapter’s bank account, rather than by receiving a paper check in the mail.

In order to set up your chapter to receive electronic deposits, please mail the following items to the SOAR Office:



1. A voided check from your SOAR chapter’s checking account.
2. The most recent copy of a bank statement that will confirm the complete title/name of the chapter’s bank account and the current mailing address listed on the account.
3. A note indicating that you want your chapter to be set up for automatic deposit of SOAR dues refunds.

Send the above items to:

SOAR  
 Attn. Julie Stein, SOAR Director  
 60 Blvd of the Allies  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
 Or, you can scan the items to [jstein@usw.org](mailto:jstein@usw.org)

As a reminder, SOAR dues refunds are sent in April, August and November of each year. Once on direct deposit, a confirmation receipt for the amount of funds transferred to the SOAR chapter’s bank account will be mailed to the officer designated to receive financial mailings. Also included in the mailing will be a SOAR Chapter Refund Summary that lists the members who paid SOAR dues during the cycle.

Feel free to contact the SOAR Office at 866-208-4420 if you have questions.

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**Reminder Notice for SOAR Chapters:**

Please contact the SOAR Office immediately if your chapter hasn’t returned the Annual Financial Report Form for 2022. SOAR Office toll-free number: 866-208-4420



**“I never encourage deceit or falsehood, especially if you have a bad memory, as it is the worst enemy a fellow can have. The truth is your truest friend, no matter what the circumstance.”**

**Abraham Lincoln**



### SOAR Chapter Connection

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### The McNeil Report



I feel like my body has gotten totally out of shape so I got my doctors permission to join a fitness club and start exercising.

I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors. I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour but by the time I got my leotards on, the class was over.

March 24 (Reuters) - Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed a package of bills repealing the state's so-called "Right to Work" law that allowed workers to opt out of unions, a long-sought victory for labor organizers facing an era of diminished power.



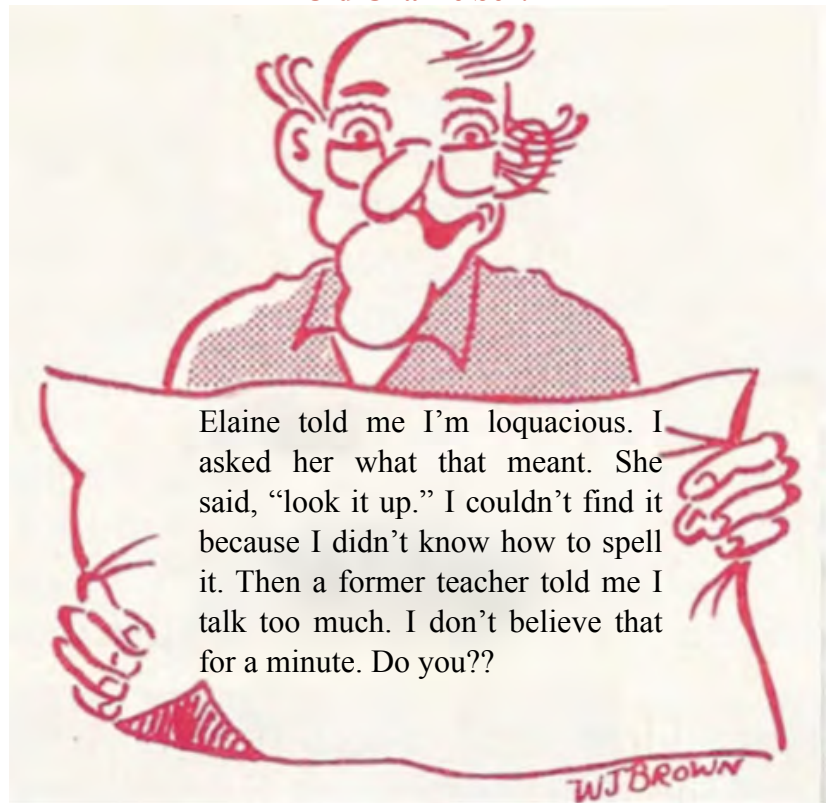
### Articles and Photos Requested

The deadline for the next publication of the SOAR Chapter Connection newsletter is May 25, 2023. Email articles and photos to [soar3@icloud.com](mailto:soar3@icloud.com) Photos should have a short caption included.

The next deadline for the SOAR in Action magazine will be July 6 and articles should be emailed to the SOAR Director Julie Stein at [jstein@usw.org](mailto:jstein@usw.org)



### Old Charlie Sez:



Elaine told me I'm loquacious. I asked her what that meant. She said, "look it up." I couldn't find it because I didn't know how to spell it. Then a former teacher told me I talk too much. I don't believe that for a minute. Do you??

### Loquacious

adjective  
tending to talk a great deal;  
talkative:

**Now Available**



**SOAR hats for purchase!**  
**\$20 each +**  
**the cost of shipping.**

**Contact the SOAR Office.**  
**866-208-4420**

**\$20**

### Just a Hat Memory

For various reasons, I'm slowly becoming unable to attend local union meetings far from my home. I'm reminded of this by the advertisements on this page of the newsletter of hats and T-shirts with the SOAR logo on them.

Gosh, when I was an active member of the local union, many of us wore Steelworker hats and T-shirts.

In the last few years, going to local union meetings, when a collection was being taken up to help some poor member having financial problems, the local union asked if they could use my hat to take up the collection. Of course, you can imagine the shape and condition of a ball cap by the time the cap was returned to me!

*Charlie Averill*

**The SOAR Office will have T-shirts for purchase beginning May 2023!**



**COMING SOON**

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### ... A Good Start



On the last day of February, Alliance for American Manufacturing (AAM) President Scott Paul testified before the newly formed House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). If you have been reading AAM's reports in this space, you are aware of our efforts to keep a watchful eye on the CCP and its efforts to undermine American manufacturing and our workers at any cost.

During the unusual televised prime time hearing Paul outlined the dangers posed by the CCP to American manufacturing and offered steps to increase American stability on the world stage.

“The economic policies of the Chinese Communist Party represent a clear and present danger to the American worker, our innovation base and our national security,” said Paul. “For decades the CCP has telegraphed its intentions with five-year plans, the Made in China 2025 program, Military-Civil Fusion and the Belt and Road Initiative. Its goals: dominate key industries, set global standards, seek opportunity from crisis and weaken competitors.”

Since China was allowed to become a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2000, the U.S. trade deficit with China has soared and America lost 3.7 million jobs between 2001 and 2018. Of those lost jobs, three-fourths were in manufacturing, debilitating much of America's industrial capacity and devastating communities.

“America has become too dependent on China for many essential goods,” said Paul. “PPE during the pandemic. 5G hardware. Commercial drones. Medicine. The list is long and terrifying.”

“A bright future for American manufacturing is possible, even in the wake of the CCP's destructive policies. Factories are rebounding and it's not accidental. It's a result of public policies and pressure on corporations to rethink supply chains.

“There's more to do. We have a long list of vulnerabilities, starting with medicine ingredients, critical minerals, machine tools and microelectronics. And the CCP isn't slowing down.”

A recent AAM poll, conducted by Morning Consult, found that there is widespread bipartisan agreement among U.S. voters that elected federal officials should do more to protect U.S. labor and economic interests from China.

The formation of this new House Select Committee addressing strategies of the U.S. and the Chinese Communist Party is proving to be a good start.

*Jeff Bonior*, is a staff writer at the Alliance for American Manufacturing

## Insulin Prices Cut for More Patients as Drugmakers Cave to Pressure

by Robert Roach, Jr.



Drug corporation Eli Lilly announced recently that it will cap out-of-pocket patient costs for its two most popular insulin drugs, Humalog and Humulin — which treat diabetes — at \$35 per month. Patients with private insurance and who use participating pharmacies will pay the new, lower prices.

Novo Nordisk then joined Lilly, announcing that it would also cut U.S. list prices for several insulin products. They plan to drop the price of their insulin products by up to 75% next year. Sanofi soon followed. That is certainly welcome news, but hold on before you offer unbridled thanks to the pharmaceutical industry.

Alliance members have been at the forefront of lowering the price of drugs like insulin for years, adding to the pressure on the company to act. The Inflation Reduction Act, signed into law by President Biden in 2022, had already capped insulin copays at \$35 per month for Medicare beneficiaries, adding to the pressure to cut prices for other consumers.

Despite that, Lilly's price cuts will not take effect until October, giving the drugmaker seven more months of profits from high priced insulin. Lilly typically rakes in nearly \$600 million in annual profits, and pays next to nothing in federal taxes. Their CEO draws a \$20 million annual salary.

And, since Lilly and others cap out-of-pocket costs to patients but not necessarily the prices charged to insurance companies, their plans could result in cost-shifting and higher insurance premiums.

Americans pay the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs. The current price of Humalog is \$530 for five injection pens. That is outrageous when basic insulin has been around for more than a century and should not cost more than aspirin.

Every American who needs insulin should be able to get it at an affordable price, and patients should not have to rely on voluntary actions by wealthy corporations for that to happen. Our activism must remain vocal and strong, so Congress can build on the Inflation Reduction Act to lower more drug prices for all Americans.

Robert Roach, Jr. is president of the Alliance for Retired Americans. He was previously General Secretary-Treasurer of the IAMAW. For more information, visit [www.retiredamericans.org](http://www.retiredamericans.org).

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**Hugging is good medicine. It transfers energy and gives the person hugged an emotional lift. You need four hugs a day for survival, eight for maintenance, and twelve for growth. Scientists say that hugging is a form of communication because it can say things you don't have the words for. And the nicest thing about a hug is that you usually can't give one without getting one.**

Source unknown, but we really like it.



## Rosie The Riveter: Working Women's Icon

[Jim Borland, Acting Deputy Commissioner for Communications](#)



“Rosie the Riveter” is an American icon representing women working in factories during World War II. These women learned new jobs and filled in for the men who were away at war. They produced much of the armaments and ammunition to supply the war effort.

They also paid [FICA](#) on their wages, contributing to the Social Security program. These “Rosies” embodied the “can-do” spirit immortalized in a poster by J. Howard Miller. Both the image and the spirit live on today.

If you asked Rosie about Social Security, she would use her rivet gun to drive home the value of [Social Security for women](#). More Rosies work today, and nearly 60 percent of people receiving benefits are women. Women tend to live longer than men, so Social Security's inflation-adjusted benefits help protect women. You can outlive your savings and investments, but Social Security is for life. Women provide their own basic level of protection when they work and pay taxes into the Social Security system. Women who have been married and had low earnings or who didn't work may be covered through their spouses' work.

Today's Rosie will turn her “can-do” spirit to learning more about Social Security and what role it will play in her financial plan for the future. She focuses on our pamphlet called [What Every Woman Should Know](#) for a game plan.

She rolls up her sleeves and sets up her [my Social Security](#) account to review her earnings and estimates. If she finds an incorrect posting, she'll locate her W-2 form and quickly contact Social Security to correct it because she understands these are the earnings used to figure her benefits.

She dives into understanding benefits at our [planner pages](#). She examines how marriage, divorce, death of a spouse, work, and other issues might affect her benefits. She studies our fact sheet [When to Start Receiving Retirement Benefits](#) to help her decide when it's time to lay down the rivet gun. And when the time is right, she will file for [retirement benefits online](#). Whether it was keeping the war effort production lines humming or discovering what is available to her from Social Security, Rosie symbolizes the motto: “We Can Do It.” Rosie and millions like her rely on the financial protection provided by Social Security in assembling their own financial futures.

Source: <https://blog.ssa.gov>

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**“Feminism isn't about making women stronger. Women are already strong, it's about changing the way the world perceives that strength.”**

**G.D. Anderson**

## What is the A. Phillip Randolph Institute?



To A. Philip Randolph and Bayard Rustin, APRI's co-founders, the fight for workers' rights and civil rights were inseparable.

Randolph (1889-1979) was the greatest black labor leader in American history and the father of the modern American civil rights movement.

Rustin (1912-1987), a leading civil rights and labor activist and strategist, was the chief organizer of the historic 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom and Randolph's greatest protege.

Randolph and Rustin forged an alliance between the civil rights movement and the labor movement. They recognized that blacks and working people of all colors share the same goals:

political and social freedom and economic justice.



**Bust of A. Phillip Randolph located in Union Station, D.C.**

This Black-Labor Alliance helped the civil rights movement achieve one of its greatest victories - passage of the Voting Rights Act, which removed the last remaining legal barriers to broad black political participation.

Inspired by this success, Randolph and Rustin founded A. Philip Randolph Institute in 1965 to continue the struggle for social, political and economic justice for all working Americans.

APRI is an Organization of Black Trade Unionist to Fight for Racial Equality and Economic Justice. Today, APRI is led by President Clayola Brown, whose vision and energy has sparked a new beginning for this organization and for the movement as a whole.

Source: <http://www.apri.org/our-history.html>

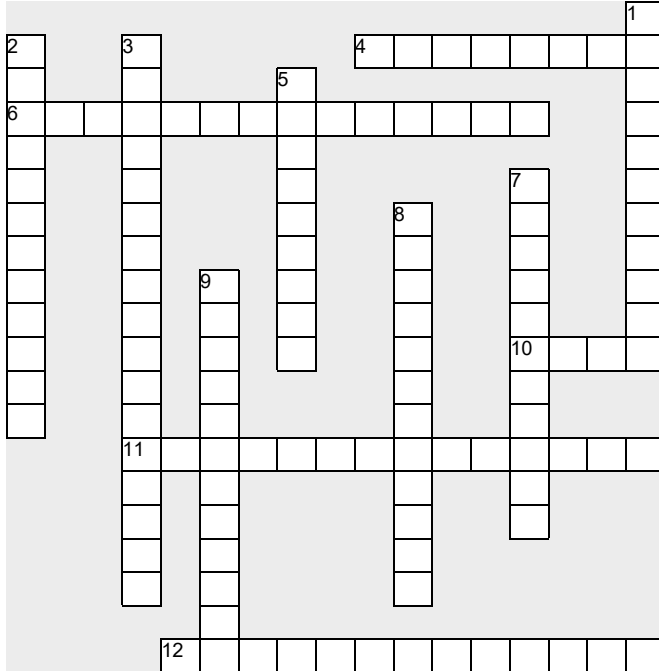
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**“I want it said of me by those who knew me best, that I always plucked a thistle and planted a flower where I thought a flower would grow.”**

**Abraham Lincoln**

# OLDTIMER FUN PAGE

## Black History Month Crossword



## Women's History Month Word Search



Across

- 4. She is the United States' first female vice president, the highest-ranking female elected official in U.S. history, and the first African American VP and first Asian American vice president.
- 6. She was an African American abolitionist and women's rights activist best-known for her speech on racial inequalities, "Ain't I a Woman?", delivered extemporaneously in 1851 at the Ohio Women's Rights Convention.
- 10. A civil rights activist and member of the NAACP gained national attention when she refused to give up her bus seat to a white man, an action that sparked a boycott of the Montgomery bus system.
- 11. Elected in 1992 to represent Illinois in the U.S. Senate. She was the first African American woman elected to the Senate.
- 12. Born into slavery in Maryland, she escaped to freedom in the North in 1849 to become the most famous "conductor" on the Underground Railroad. She risked her life to lead hundreds of family members and other slaves from the plantation system to freedom on this elaborate secret network of safe houses.

Down

- 1. The first African American president of the United States.
- 2. An American civil right activist, Baptist minister, and politician. He was a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1984 and 1988.
- 3. A Trinidadian-American revolutionary active in the 1960s Civil Rights Movement, and later, the global Pan-African movement. He rose to prominence in the civil rights and Black Power movements.
- 5. The first African-American to earn a doctorate degree from Harvard University. He was also one of the co-founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1909.
- 7. An American civil rights activist from Mississippi who worked to overturn segregation at the University of Mississippi and gain social justice and voting rights.
- 8. An African-American abolitionist in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, conductor on the Underground Railroad, writer, historian and civil rights activist. He directly aided fugitive slaves and kept records of their lives to help families reunite after slavery was abolished.
- 9. Represented Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1972-78 and was the first African-American congresswoman from the Deep South.

WORD LIST

- ACTIVIST
- CELEBRATION
- EDUCATE
- EQUALITY
- FEMINISM
- HERSTORY
- HONOR
- MARCH
- MOTHER JONES
- MOVEMENT
- RECOGNITION
- RGB
- RIGHTS
- ROAR
- STRONG
- SUFFRAGE
- TRAILBLAZING
- VOTE
- WOMEN
- WOMEN OF STEEL

## President’s Perspective: Working Kids to Death

By Tom Conway, USW International President



Brad Greve said he and other expedition leaders repeatedly told the group of Boy Scouts to watch out for a section of stream where the water picked up speed and swept over rapids into the lake below.

But two of the boys forgot the warnings and let their canoe drift perilously close to the drop-off anyway. Realizing their mistake in the

nick of time, they paddled furiously against the stiffening current and made it to the streambank rattled but safe.



**Brad Greve**

That near-accident a few years ago, Greve said, underscores the vulnerability of young teens. And it fuels Greve’s anger at Republicans who want to gut child-labor laws and fill dangerous jobs with still-maturing high-schoolers, even at the risk of working them to death.

Greve vehemently opposes a proposal moving through Iowa’s Republican-controlled legislature that would allow 14-year-olds to work in industrial freezers, meatpacking plants and industrial laundry operations. The legislation also would put 15-year-olds to work on certain kinds of assembly lines and allow them to hoist up to 50 pounds.

In some cases, it even would permit young teens to work mining and construction jobs and let them use power-driven meat slicers and food choppers.

Just three years ago, a 16-year-old in Tennessee fell 11 stories to his death while working construction on a hotel roof. Another 16-year-old lost an arm that same year while cleaning a meat grinder at a Tennessee supermarket.

But these preventable tragedies mean nothing to Iowa legislators bent on helping greedy employers pad their bottom lines at kids’ expense.

“They make impulsive decisions and do things without thinking, just because they’re young. They don’t know what they don’t know,” said Greve, a Davenport, Iowa, resident and member of the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR Chapter 11-4), explaining how the legislation puts youths in harm’s way.

The legislation also would allow employers to force kids into significantly longer work days—until 9 p.m. during the school year and 11 p.m. during the summer.



These additional hours at work would rob kids of time needed for studying and for the extracurricular activities that help mold them into productive, responsible adults.

For example, Greve, a Scout leader for more than 20 years, helps to lead 50-mile canoe trips on Minnesota’s Boundary Waters that test teens’ mettle while teaching them essential skills. He also assists Scouts with Eagle Projects requiring them to plan, fund and lead community service projects.

“It’s not about teens needing more jobs,” he added of the watered-down child-labor legislation championed by groups like the Iowa Restaurant Association, Iowa Grocery Industry Association and Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce. “It’s about businesses wanting cheap labor or more labor than they can currently get because they don’t want to pay reasonable wages or give any benefits.”



COVID-19 prompted millions of Americans to ditch jobs lacking decent working conditions, sick leave and affordable health care. The meatpacking industry, among many others, hemorrhaged workers after deliberately putting them at risk to protect profits during the pandemic.

Now, rather than correct course and provide the quality jobs needed to attract adults, Greve observed, companies want their Republican cronies to “throw them a bone” and widen access to child labor.

**USW members and other union workers gathered at the Iowa statehouse Feb. 27 to protest a bill that would gut the state's child-labor law.**

Minnesota Republicans want to let 16- and 17-year-olds work construction. GOP legislators in Ohio are pushing legislation to expand teens’ work hours. Last year, labor unions and Democratic officials in Wisconsin beat back a Republican proposal to lengthen work days for teens in that state.

The Iowa legislation is particularly onerous because it would exempt employers from civil liability in the event of a youth’s injury or death on the job—even in cases of employer negligence—if the teen was participating in a school-approved “work-based learning program.”

That will only encourage employers to skimp on training and supervision, even though young workers continually need both, observed Greve, who closely monitored safety conditions at Arconic’s Davenport Works while president of United Steelworkers (USW) Local 105.

Even worse, efforts to push kids into hazardous workplaces come at a time when employers already flout child-labor laws at record rates, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, which has documented alarming spikes each year since 2015.

Employers thumb their noses at the law because they often get away with it for long periods and face only token penalties when caught.

Continued on next page →

After the 16-year-old fell off the hotel roof, for example, Tennessee officials determined that the company not only illegally put the teen in harm’s way but worked him more hours than allowed and cheated dozens of other workers out of tens of thousands of dollars in overtime pay. Adding insult to injury, the company vowed to appeal the \$122,000 fine it received for the teen’s death.

Greve knows that eviscerating child-labor laws will disproportionately hurt the poor, migrants, victims of trafficking and other at-risk youths who have little choice but to work when and where they’re told.

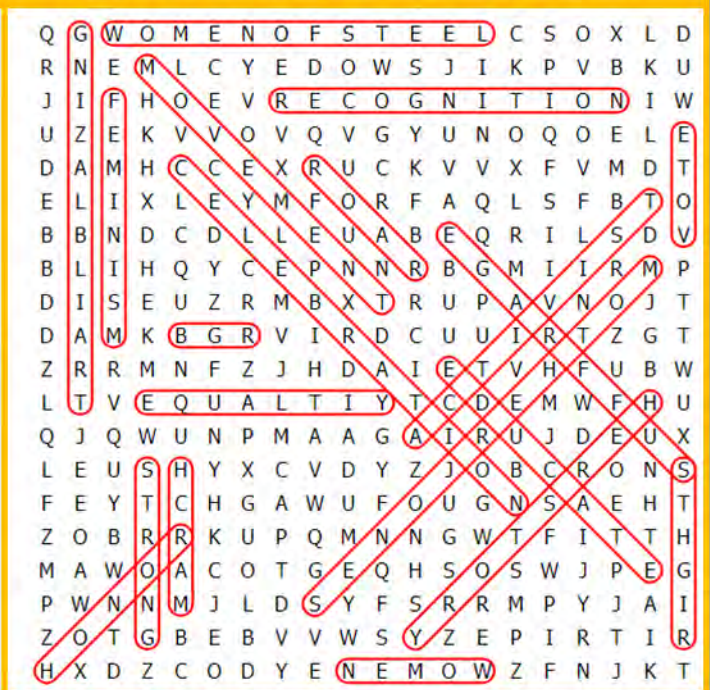
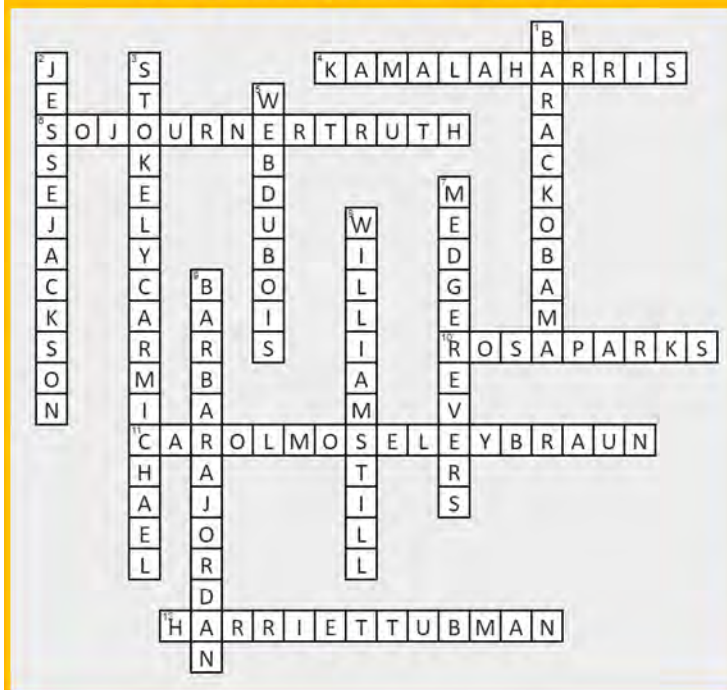
The news agency Reuters last year found migrant youths and other children as young as 12 working at Alabama companies supplying the auto industry.

And the New York Times reported over the weekend that the widespread illegal employment of minors from poor and migrant families had reached epidemic proportions, reflecting a “new economy of exploitation.” The Times found that employers subjected thousands of kids in this shadow work force to some of the deadliest jobs in the country, including work in slaughterhouses and sawmills.

“Why would you want to weaken the law when you can see companies already taking advantage?” said Greve, noting the importance of electing working pro-worker, pro-child politicians to state and federal office. “The law should be strengthened.”

**Black History Month Crossword**

**Women’s History Month Word Search**





March 6, 2023

Brothers and Sisters,

I am reaching out to all our SOAR Chapters to take the lead in a battle that affects not only our retirees but future generations. Teaming up with our union's Rapid Response Program, we are making a joint effort to ensure our voices are heard.



Currently, a growing number of lawmakers are advocating for cuts and key changes to undermine Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. We will not stand for concessions to these fundamental programs that millions of workers rely on for their livelihood during retirement. The only thing standing in their way are programs like SOAR and Rapid Response.

We ask that all our SOAR Chapters adopt the enclosed "NO CUTS TO SOCIAL SAFETY NET PROGRAMS LIKE SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE, or MEDICAID." Once adopted, follow the enclosed directions to help you through the next steps.

Also enclosed are placards for your Chapter to take a group photo with and then forward to Lori Bookwood at [Lbookwood@usw.org](mailto:Lbookwood@usw.org) with your Chapter number to include in our SOAR in Action magazine and on social media.

Since this issue affects not just union members but the working class as a whole, we have also created an online petition at <http://usw.to/4gu> to collect signatures from family and friends to show support. To learn more about our fight going forward, go to <http://usw.to/NoCuts>.

This is just a first step in the battle ahead of us. This campaign is not a race, but will be a slow and steady fight that your participation in is imperative to protect what is ours. So keep your eyes open as more actions will be come in the following weeks.

As always, thank you for all you do to keep our retirees involved and informed in one of the Steelworkers' most vital programs!

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Stein".

SOAR Director







## Instructions for SOAR Chapter Resolutions and Member Signatures

1. Have the resolution read and adopted at your next SOAR Chapter meeting.
2. On the resolution itself, fill in your SOAR Chapter number, date, month, and sign off as the Chapter.

**Example:**

*THIS RESOLUTION WAS PASSED BY USW SOAR CHAPTER 999 ON THE 4th DAY OF March, 2023*

*SIGNED: USW SOAR CHAPTER 999*

3. Have your SOAR Chapter members sign the signature page.
4. Please mail the finished resolution and signature page to your District Rapid Response Coordinator so they can coordinate delivery to members of Congress. **Make sure to include your name and contact information.**

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**District 1**

Sue Browne  
20600 Eureka Rd., Ste 300  
Taylor, MI 48180

**District 4**

Mark McDonald  
1911 Sheridan Dr.  
Buffalo, NY 14223

**District 7**

Jerome Davison  
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**District 8**

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**District 9**

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**District 10**

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**District 11**

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**District 12**

Catherine Houston  
1820 Galindo St., Ste 240  
Concord, CA 94520

**District 13**

Andy Frye  
1300 Rollingbrook Dr., Ste 504  
Baytown, TX 77521





# SOAR CHAPTER RESOLUTION



**NO CUTS!**  
TO  
**RETIREMENT SECURITY**

## **NO CUTS TO SOCIAL SAFETY NET PROGRAMS LIKE SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE, or MEDICAID**

WHEREAS, the United States is the only major country with an artificial debt “ceiling” that requires political action after Congress has already approved spending. The debt “ceiling” does not authorize any new spending commitments; it simply allows the government to finance existing spending obligations that previous Congresses and presidents of both parties have made in the past; and

WHEREAS, since 1960, Congress has raised the debt ceiling 78 separate times under majorities of both parties; and

WHEREAS, on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the U.S. officially reached that borrowing limit and Congress must act by this summer to prevent the United States from defaulting on its debts; and

WHEREAS, some members of Congress have stated that they will not agree to raise the debt “ceiling” without changes to Social Security, Medicare, and/or Medicaid programs such as cuts to benefits, raising the retirement age, or even privatization; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, Social Security provided benefits to 65.8 million people, including hundreds of thousands of retired USW members; and

WHEREAS without Social Security the U.S. poverty rate for our seniors would be nearly 41 percent; instead it is just under 9 percent; and

WHEREAS, just the same as Social Security, Medicare should not face program cuts in an effort to increase the debt ceiling. Since 1965 the Medicare program provides comprehensive federal health insurance to over 63 million Americans over the age of 65; and

WHEREAS, children and seniors are the vast majority of covered individuals in the state and federal program called Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, around 43 percent of all births in the U.S. are covered by Medicaid and nearly 37 million children receive Medicaid health coverage; and

WHEREAS, our union negotiates improved benefits and retirement savings for our members, but we will not leave those without our benefits behind; and

WHEREAS, current and future retirees, disabled workers, and our communities should not face reduced service or less income in retirement over decisions which have little relevance to major government programs like Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, our local urges Congress to quickly raise or eliminate the debt ceiling without any spending concessions that would cut Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid now and to protect these programs moving forward.

THIS RESOLUTION WAS PASSED BY USW SOAR CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_ ON THE \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2023

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_







# SOAR CHAPTER RESOLUTION



**NO CUTS!**  
TO  
**RETIREMENT SECURITY**

The members of our SOAR Chapter urge Congress to quickly raise or eliminate the debt ceiling without any spending concessions that would cut Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid now and to protect these programs moving forward.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature                                      Name (print)                                      Street Address                                      City, State & Zip

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Signature                                      Name (print)                                      Street Address                                      City, State & Zip

Make copies as needed



**NO CUTS!**

**TO**

**RETIREMENT  
SECURITY**

UNITED STEELWORKERS  
**SOAR**  
STEELWORKERS ORGANIZATION OF ACTIVE RETIREES

**Rapid  
Response**  
EDUCATING • EMPOWERING • ENGAGING

**NO CUTS!**

**TO**

**RETIREMENT  
SECURITY**