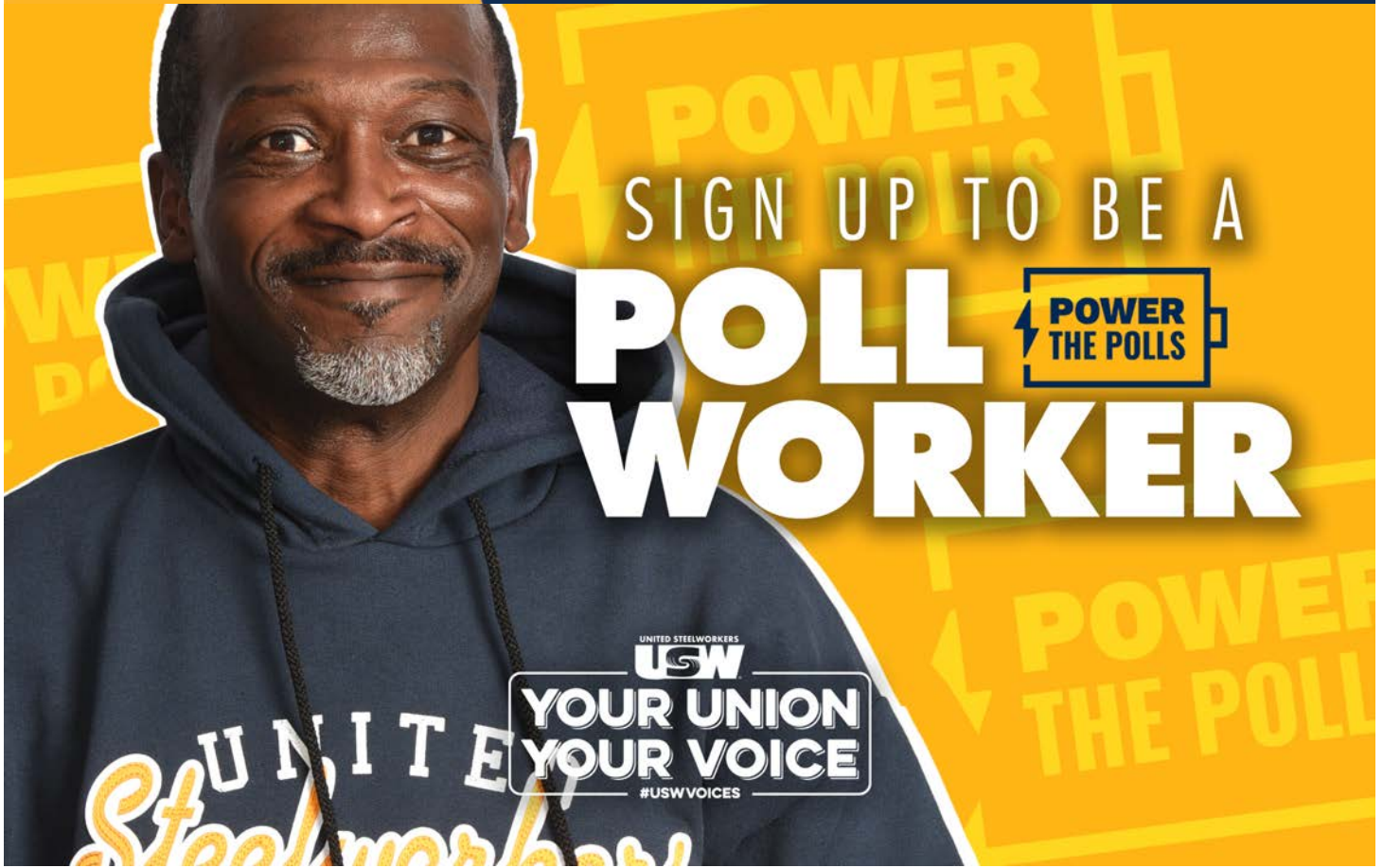




CONNECTION

WE'RE STRONGER TOGETHER



Your Community Needs You!

Serving as a poll worker is a valuable way for retirees to give back to your community and support your neighbors. It's one of the most effective ways you can help make sure our democracy works as it should.

Poll working is fun, nonpartisan, and you may even get paid! Do your part to ensure safe, free, and fair elections for all voters.

You can help make sure we have a safe, fair, efficient election for all voters.

Go to: <https://www.powerthepolls.org/USW>

(See page 5 of this newsletter for additional information.)

Your Union, Your Voice 2022 Survey Results ~ Retirement Security Ranks as Top Issue



Our 2022 *Your Union, Your Voice* survey effort has concluded with thousands of members and retirees responding to our membership survey and thousands more providing feedback at the 150+ town halls that USW Districts hosted across the United States.

You'll recall that the USW first launched *Your Union, Your Voice (YUYV)* two years ago so that we could hear about your top priorities and share information about our union's core issues.

Thousands of you helped make that effort an overwhelming success. Your input helped shape our work over the last two years, and I'm extremely proud to remind you that we've been able to celebrate significant progress in a number of the areas you indicated as most important to you.

Progress on Workers' Issues

Most notably, we:

- Achieved a massive win on retirement security that will protect the benefits of 120,000 active and retired members who were at risk of losing everything.
- Realized a decades-long goal with the once-in-a-generation infrastructure bill the President signed into law in November 2021. This move will keep countless USW members' jobs strong for years to come while improving our communities and overall global competitiveness.
- Saw a change in the leadership at the National Labor Relations Board that provided fundamental improvements for workers seeking justice when they or their unions are subjected to unfair labor practices.

Our 2022 Your Union, Your Voice Report

As I am providing this report to SOAR members, the results were no surprise to me. I highlight that retirement security was the top-rated issue of importance among respondents to our 2022 YUYV membership survey. Retirement security was followed closely by affordable health care and prescription drugs (which was 2020's top-ranked issue of concern among members and retirees) and labor laws that allow us to organize and secure good contracts took the third spot.

Additionally, more than 70 percent of respondents listed trade agreements and laws that protect U.S. workers, increased worker wages, and safety and health as "very important."

Acting Upon Your Feedback

With the 2022 midterm elections rapidly approaching, union members and retirees will be presented with another opportunity to help elect pro-retiree, pro-worker and pro-union lawmakers who can be our allies in making progress on the issues you've indicated to be most important to you.

Julie Stein, SOAR Director

We Really Mean, SOAR IN ACTION!



The members of SOAR have really been "IN ACTION" the last few months. After being limited in what we could do regarding socializing or participating in actions involving groups for almost two years, the members of SOAR seem anxious to resume their activities and to be engaged in issues related to retirees and working families in Canada and the United States.

Over 100 retirees attended the recent SOAR Conference in Las Vegas and participated in discussions on resolutions dealing with the future of SOAR. In addition, our Canadian delegation spoke on their participation in efforts to expand national health care coverage to include prescription drugs.

Once we returned home, several USW districts announced the formation of new SOAR chapters, which is extremely important because SOAR needs to continue to bring in new members. Because of who we are, and our tendency to "age-out" as we get to our senior years, we need to continually bring in new members in order to maintain our ability to function.

Districts recently sent in reports of their participation in the Labor Day parades around the country. SOAR participation in Districts 10, 7 and 4 did a great job of getting recognized for their involvement, with District 4 getting camera footage on a local news station in New York City.

Many of our chapters and members volunteered to participate in the *Your Union, Your Voice* postcard writing campaign. Special mention must go to District 7 SOAR Board member Dorine Godinez, and the SOAR chapters in District 7, as they worked in solidarity to prepare over 2600 postcards.

Many of our members have volunteered to get involved in the upcoming election. Some will be working at voting locations or simply be an observer. Others have volunteered to jump in with both feet, to do leafleting and door knocking, and to participate in rallies for candidates that support our position on issues important to active and retired workers and their families.

Our members may have retired from the company, but they never left their Union. They continue to be involved in issues important to them, and they continue to be "SOAR IN ACTION!"

Bill Pienta, SOAR President

We can't avoid age. However, we can avoid some aging. Continue to do things. Be active. Life is fantastic in the way it adjusts to demands; if you use your muscles and mind, they stay there much longer.

-Charles H. Townes

SOAR Chapter Connection

A bi-monthly publication of SOAR

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Articles and Photos Requested

- The deadline to submit articles for the next publication of the SOAR Chapter Connection newsletter is November 25. Email articles and photos to soar3@icloud.com Photos should have a short caption included. Thanks so much.

Flu Prevention

There are many places you can get your flu shot – don't wait.



People who are 65 and older are at high risk of having serious health complications from the flu. Getting the flu shot protects you from getting the flu and keeps you from spreading it to others.

You pay nothing for a flu shot if your doctor or other qualified health care provider accepts assignment for giving the shot.

The McNeil Report Who Does What...

A man & his wife were having a discussion about about who should brew the morning coffee.

The wife said, "you should do it because you get up first and then we won't have to wait as long to get our coffee."

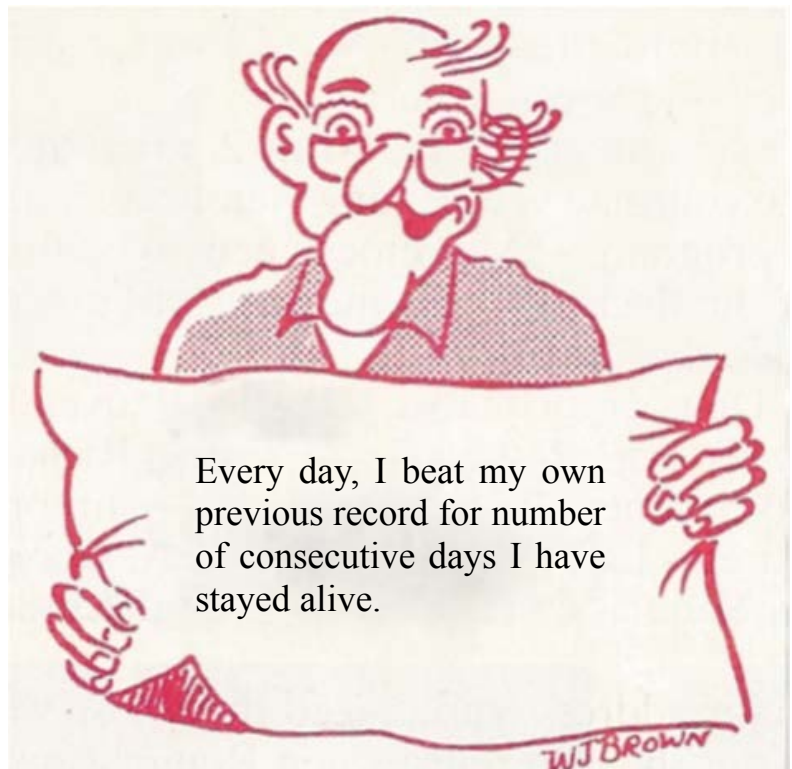
The husband then said, "You are in charge of the cooking around here and you should do it, because that is your job, and I can just wait for my coffee."

The wife replies, "No you should do it, and besides, it is in the Bible that the man should do the coffee."

Husband replies, "I can't believe that, show me."

So the good wife fetched the Bible and opened to the New Testament and showed him at the top of several pages, that indeed it says.. "HEBREWS!"

Old Charlie Sez





September 27, 2022

Your Community Needs You!

Sign up to work the polls this November: Just click here: <https://www.powerthepolls.org/USW>

Across the country, election administrators are already reporting poll worker shortages. With six weeks until Election Day, we need your help: election administrators have identified your area in dire need of more poll workers to help at polling places this election season. In some places, thousands of additional volunteers are needed, particularly those that speak additional languages. These shortages threaten access to the ballot box by leading to polling location closures and long lines, especially in communities of color and low-income communities.

Volunteer in Your Community!

As a poll worker, you get paid to help make sure the election is fair, efficient, safe, and accessible for all voters. Poll workers support early voting locations, ensure technology functions, and help minimize long lines and delays at polling places. The earlier you submit your application, the more likely you are to get selected.

Poll workers are recruited and hired locally and help with tasks such as verifying voters' identities, answering questions, and assisting voters who require it. Most of these roles are temporary and paid, requiring a short training period commitment and attendance on the day of the election. Poll workers are critical to help maintain safe in-person voting for communities without reliable access to mail service, voters with disabilities, voters who need language assistance, or for voters who simply want to cast their ballot in person as they always have.

Become a Guardian of Democracy!

We know Steelworkers are always at the front of the line when it comes to lifting up and helping those in our communities - it's what we do! Serving as a poll worker is a valuable way to give back to your community and support your neighbors. It's one of the most effective ways you can help make sure our democracy works as it should. Poll working is fun, nonpartisan, and you may even get paid! Do your part to ensure safe, free, and fair elections for all voters.



Old Age

By the year 2050, there will be over two billion “old duffers” in the world. This will constitute 22 percent of the world’s population. There will be more old people than children. Just think of that!

Here is another nugget...A recent study reveals that more people are happiest during two periods of their life...when they are children, and after age 70.

So is old age really as bad as T.V. would have us believe? We just have to remember that the things we used to do with ease, have been replaced with other things we can do.

At my age, I can’t control illness, dementia and death, but I can enjoy life’s little pleasures. I have friends and family to enjoy, and a grandson to spoil. I hope when down times come, as they will that I can face them with dignity and courage.

So to my fellow oldtimers, I say let’s kick up our heels! We have earned the grey hair and wrinkles. Don’t forget, we supposedly have wisdom to pass along to the next generation. We can tell old stories over and over again to those who will listen.

As the popular old-age poem says:

My hair is growing thinner,
 My body is not,
 The few teeth I have are beginning to rot,
 I smell of Vick’s VapoRub, not Brut #5
 My pacemaker is all I have to keep me alive.
 When asked of my past every detail I know,
 But what was I doing 10 minutes ago?
 Well, you get the idea what more can I say,
 I’m off to read the
 Obituaries, like I do every day.
 If my name is not there,
 I’ll once more again start,
 Perfecting the art of falling apart.

So let’s raise a glass of prune juice and salute to our longevity.

Honey, even though we both have August birthdays, I realize I’m the old duffer...not you. More ice cream please!!!

Source: “Conversations with Ted,” by Ted Hayes with permission.



H A P P Y F A L L !
 STAY HEALTHY. STAY ACTIVE. STAY SAFE.



On August 4, 2022, the SOAR Executive Board and a group of SOAR Coordinators (one from each District) met preceding the 13th Int'l SOAR Conference, in Las Vegas, NV, to review the conference agenda and the submitted resolutions that were to be discussed during the SOAR Conference. Photo by Ike Gittlen.

Get Your Shingles Vaccine

by [Dr. Salomeh Keyhan](#)

If you had chicken pox as a child, you are at risk for shingles in your later years. And most people should get vaccinated against it. It's important for you to understand why the shingles vaccine can be so important for older adults.

The [CDC recommends](#) vaccination for all individuals over the age of sixty, unless you have a [contraindication](#), such as a weakened immune system resulting from a chronic illness, or you are about to undergo a transplant or you have severe allergies to any component of the vaccine, such as gelatin. Without the vaccine, the same virus that gave you the chicken pox can [stay in your body](#) for decades and re-emerge as shingles.



Dr. Salomeh Keyhan

The older you are, the worse it can be, so please get vaccinated. [Shingles](#) will cause you to get a painful rash that blisters and can last for weeks at a time. Other symptoms may include itching, tingling, fever and upset stomach. In some cases, shingles can affect your eyes, along with your vision.

Note: There are two shingles vaccines, Shingrix and Zostavax. Talk to your doctor about which one better meets your needs.

Source: justcareusa.org

Anti-Retiree GOP Candidates Threaten Social Security and Medicare this November

by Robert Roach, Jr.



Across the country candidates are attacking Social Security and Medicare, including candidates running for the Senate in Arizona, Florida and Wisconsin.

Blake Masters, who won the Republican primary for Senate in Arizona, has called for the privatization of Social Security, which would mean an end to guaranteed benefits and a windfall for Wall Street. He is running against incumbent Sen. Mark Kelly (AZ) for the U.S. Senate.

In Colorado and Washington, Republican Senate candidates Tiffany Smiley and Joe O’Dea seek to unseat Senators Patty Murray (WA) and Michael Bennett (CO), respectively. O’Dea has said he supports “cutting entitlements,” code for cuts in Social Security and Medicare. Both candidates are strongly backed by the National Republican Senatorial Committee, chaired by Sen. Rick Scott (FL), whose election-year campaign plan would “sunset,” or potentially end, Social Security and Medicare after five years. Congress would then vote every five years thereafter on whether or not to continue the programs.

Several prominent Republicans have publicly supported Sen. Scott’s plan, including Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida and Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin. Sen. Johnson said he favors an even more extreme plan: that Social Security and Medicare should be re-approved on an annual basis by Congress, ending the earned benefits programs as we know them. Johnson faces Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes in that Senate race, while Sen. Rubio faces Rep. Val Demings in Florida.

Republican politicians have been upfront about their dangerous schemes to cut or end Social Security and Medicare. It’s clear that Social Security and Medicare are on the ballot in the midterm elections, and seniors need to take note or risk losing the benefits they have earned over a lifetime.

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.

Don’t Be Taking My Social Security Away!!!

Just ask yourself...why would any member of Congress want to take away your Social Security? Your livelihood? That thing you’ve paid for all your working life? Are they so well paid that they just don’t know how important the program is for people who are retired? We all better make sure that those people aren’t re-elected... *Charlie*



**For Immediate Release
August 16, 2022**

Contact: David Blank, 202-637-5275 or
dblank@retiredamericans.org

Seniors Rejoice as President Biden Makes Lower Drug Prices for Older Americans the Law of the Land

Washington, DC - Members of the Alliance for Retired Americans celebrated President Biden's signing of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) into law on Tuesday following recent passage of the legislation by the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

The bill will help lower prescription drug prices for seniors by:

- Requiring Medicare to negotiate lower prices for some of the highest priced prescription drugs, using its enormous purchasing power on behalf of seniors and taxpayers;
- Capping out of pocket costs for insulin at \$35 per month for Medicare beneficiaries;
- Making all recommended adult vaccines free for Medicare beneficiaries beginning in 2023;
- Prohibiting drug corporations from increasing the price it charges Medicare for a drug by more than the rate of inflation; and
- Capping out of pocket drug spending at \$2,000 per year for Medicare Part D.

"This victory for older Americans is especially sweet because it shows seniors defeating the pharmaceutical industry," said Robert Roach, Jr., President of the Alliance. "Fortunately the efforts of 4.4 million Alliance members and our allies overcame the efforts of the 1,600 lobbyists the pharmaceutical corporations employed in 2021."

"This is a long time coming. Alliance members have been fighting to allow Medicare to negotiate lower prescription drug prices for two decades," said Richard Fiesta, Executive Director of the Alliance. "Our members first took bus trips to Canada to obtain more affordable medications as far back as 2002."

Five to seven million Medicare beneficiaries could see their prescription drug costs go down because of the provision allowing Medicare to negotiate prescription drug costs. 3.3 million Medicare beneficiaries with diabetes will benefit from a guarantee that their insulin costs are capped at \$35 for a month's supply.

"Congress after Congress and President after President have failed or been unable to rein in drug costs," Fiesta added. "The pharmaceutical corporations spent \$187 million on lobbying in 2022 alone, but seniors, Democrats in Congress and President Biden stood up to them and today we finally won."

###

The Alliance for Retired Americans is a national organization with 4.4 million members that advocates for retirement security for all Americans. www.retiredamericans.org @activeretirees

Send Us Your “Made in America” Gift Ideas



Summer has just recently come to an end, and we are still weeks away from Halloween festivities. But the team at the Alliance for American Manufacturing (AAM) is already hard at work compiling our 2022 “Made in America” Holiday Gift Guide.

This holiday season will be the ninth straight year that AAM has provided consumers with a list of more than 100 companies from all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico from which you can purchase a truly American-made gift. So many items, including 97 percent of clothing products, are manufactured overseas so AAM wants to make sure you are aware that you can find a top-quality present that helps create jobs right here in the United States and helps strengthen American manufacturing.

The Gift Guide features anywhere from one to several products made across America and each year we look for new products that have not appeared in previous Gift Guides. In addition to the unique and original gifts our team discovers, we also welcome Reader’s Picks.

This is where our SOAR community comes into play.

If you have an idea or have purchased a well-crafted American-made product we ask for your help by sending us the information for consideration in the 2022 “Made in America” Holiday Gift Guide. We can never have enough shoppers and researchers out there, so if you can attest to a fine potential holiday gift that is made in America, with American materials, and most importantly, by American workers please send it along to us. We are especially fond of any new products being manufactured by our United Steelworker brothers and sisters.

The complete 2022 AAM Holiday Gift Guide will be released the week before Thanksgiving which will give shoppers ample time to stock up - or should we say stocking up - for the late December holidays.

Please send your email suggestions to giftguide@aamfg.org

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



Employment... Manufacturing gained [22,000 jobs](#) in August. The sector has gained 461,000 jobs over the past year. -- Bureau of Labor Statistics

Trade... The U.S. goods deficit with China declined to [\\$33 billion](#) in July. -- U.S. Census Bureau

Source: AAM web site

Medicare & You Handbooks for 2023 Are on the Way

My guess is that very few people enjoy reading the Medicare & You Handbook. Still, it does answer a lot of questions for those interested. You can download the book to your computer by simply going to [Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov) which will make it easier to quickly find whatever you might be looking for. I encourage you all to create your own account. You'll be glad you did.



You can find answers to any question you might have, and if you scroll to the bottom of that page, you'll discover a really good menu. The site allows you to see your past medical history with Medicare and most interesting is the "site map" which has an extensive A- Z index. Plus...you can even chat with Medicare and print the dialog.

Once you have your account, you will be very surprised at how easy it is to learn all about this really great Healthcare program. For those who get Rx from Medicare Part D... remember the Open Enrollment Period is from October 15-December 7 each year. You can join, switch, or drop a plan. Your coverage will begin on January 1 (as long as the plan gets your request by December 7.) You can even print a copy of your Medicare card.



Charlie Averill using information from the Medicare website.

FDA Finalizes Historic Rule on Hearing Aids



UPDATE - August 16, 2022: The FDA issued a final rule: [Establishing Over-the-Counter Hearing Aids](#) to improve access to safe, effective, and affordable hearing aids for millions of Americans. This action enables consumers 18 years of age and older with perceived mild to moderate hearing loss to purchase hearing aids directly from stores or online retailers without the need for a medical exam, prescription, or a fitting adjustment by an audiologist.

Concurrently with issuing the final rule, the FDA also issued the final guidance: [Regulatory Requirements for Hearing Aid Devices and Personal Sound Amplification Products](#) to clarify the differences between hearing aids, which are medical devices, and personal sound amplification products, which are not regulated as medical devices, and which help people with normal hearing amplify sounds in certain environments.

Read more in the FDA's press release: [FDA Finalizes Historic Rule Enabling Access to Over-the-Counter Hearing Aids for Millions of Americans](#).

Having trouble hearing? Close to 30 million adults in the United States have some degree of hearing loss. Hearing loss can have a negative effect on communication, relationships, school or work performance, and emotional well-being. However, hearing loss doesn't have to restrict your daily activities. Properly fitted hearing aids and aural rehabilitation can help in many listening situations. Aural rehabilitation is the use of techniques to identify and diagnose hearing loss and implement therapies for patients who are hard of hearing, which often involves the use of hearing aids. Aural rehabilitation helps a person focus on adjusting to their hearing loss and the use of their hearing aids. It also explores assistive devices to help improve communication. Most people who are hearing-impaired will need two hearing aids because both ears are often affected by hearing loss, though some people may only need one hearing aid.

This site includes information on the difference between hearing aids, which are intended for use by people with hearing loss, and [personal sound amplification products](#) (PSAP), which are intended for consumers with no hearing loss who want to make sounds louder in certain environments, such as for recreational activities like birdwatching or hunting. While the FDA regulates hearing aids as medical devices, PSAPs are not medical devices.

This site provides general information on hearing aids and their benefits, types of hearing loss, procedures to improve hearing, and a checklist of steps to remember and consider before purchasing hearing aids. This site also provides some information about [other hearing devices and products](#), such as PSAPs, that are not intended to improve hearing loss. This site is not intended to provide medical advice. If you have questions about your health, the best source of information is your hearing health care professional.

Source: www.fda.gov



Memorial Day and Veterans Day each honor the military, though the two holidays are not the same.

Memorial Day, which is celebrated annually on the last Monday in May, honors the brave men and women who lost their lives while serving in the American military. Many communities host memorial ceremonies honoring their fallen soldiers on Memorial Day, ensuring such soldiers’ bravery and sacrifices are never forgotten.

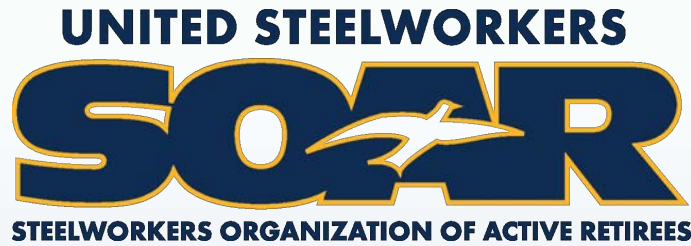
While many people now view Memorial Day weekend as the unofficial start of summer, the weekend should not be celebrated without also pausing to reflect on and recognize the military personnel who lost their lives in defense of freedom and the American way of life.

Veterans Day is celebrated annually on November 11 and recognizes all men and women who have served in the military. Veterans Day coincides with Remembrance Day, which is celebrated by the Commonwealth of Nations — an association of 56 member states, with connections to the British Empire. Countries such as Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom observe Remembrance Day.

Though Veterans Day and Remembrance Day are each celebrated on Nov. 11, the latter recognizes armed forces members who died in the line of duty, making it more similar to Memorial Day than Veterans Day. It’s not uncommon for people to recognize fallen soldiers on Veterans Day, but many use the holiday to express their appreciation to existing veterans.

On a personal note: For many of our veterans, after their military service...not a day goes by that they don’t have recollections of some part of their time in the service... *Charlie*





From: Julie Stein, SOAR Director
 Re: Suggested Motion to Pay First-Year SOAR Dues

Respectfully, I call your attention to review the SOAR Resolution that was unanimously passed at the 2022 USW International Convention. **(Attached - Resolution No. 8)**

More specifically, please refer to the third resolve, which I've included below:

- (3) We will assist SOAR in its goal of expanding its membership. **We will encourage local unions to support SOAR by providing first-year membership in SOAR to all retirees** and making it a priority to negotiate the check-off of SOAR membership dues.

Please be advised, that in support of Resolution 8, the USW Executive Board recommends that local unions sponsor a SOAR chapter and pay for the first-year SOAR dues for retirees.

Below is a suggested motion to be introduced at your Local Union Meeting:

SUGGESTED MOTION TO PAY FIRST-YEAR SOAR DUES

This motion can be introduced at the Local Union Meeting by the Local Union President or any member of the local in good-standing.

"With the utmost respect and consideration for our local union's retirees, to honor those for their contribution to our local and to thank them for obtaining our improved wages, benefits and working conditions, I would like to introduce the following motion:

Our Local Union shall pay the retired members' dues for their first year of membership in the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR)."



Resolution No. 8

Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR)

WHEREAS, maintaining close ties with retired USW members and their surviving spouses is an essential part of making our union stronger; and

WHEREAS, the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR), an affiliate organization for retired members and like-minded activists, established in 1985, offers its members a unique opportunity to advocate for their shared social, economic, educational, legislative and political priorities; and

WHEREAS, SOAR has established itself as an integral part of the USW; and

WHEREAS, SOAR has celebrated 37 years of activism, its power comes from the size and diversity of its membership, making increasing SOAR membership fundamental to its success; and

WHEREAS, SOAR's current President William Pienta, a former District Director, has brought his energy and commitment to social justice to the organization; his vision and leadership guides SOAR and helped spur its recent growth; and

WHEREAS, SOAR remains an important source of support for retirees, assisting them in matters relating to pension benefits, health insurance questions and numerous quality-of-life issues; and

WHEREAS, SOAR encourages negotiating committees to consider the needs of retirees and surviving spouses at the bargaining table; and

WHEREAS, collective action is the only way to affect meaningful change and SOAR members recognize the need for solidarity: marching with their USW brothers and sisters on picket lines, providing assistance to USW families burdened by work stoppages, participating in rallies, filling buses, and joining USW members in legislative and political battles; and

WHEREAS, SOAR activists in both the United States and Canada working internally with the USW's Rapid Response Teams, as well as working with numerous outside political, labor, civil and human rights organizations, continue to leave their mark on political and legislative issues that affect both retirees and working families. Their work is crucial in fighting to strengthen pension protections, protecting healthcare rights, combatting devastating cuts to the social safety net—including Social Security, Medicare and the Canada Pension Plan—and drawing attention to voter suppression laws that would disproportionately disenfranchise young people, minorities and retirees.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. We will offer our full and unwavering support to all SOAR members. Maintaining links between working members and retirees makes both the USW and SOAR greater organizations.

2. We will honor the memory of former USWA International President Lynn R. Williams and remain grateful for his vision and dynamic leadership that led to the creation of SOAR.

3. We will assist SOAR in its goal of expanding its membership. We will encourage local unions to support SOAR by providing first-year membership in SOAR to all retirees and making it a priority to negotiate the check-off of SOAR membership dues.

4. We will seek new ways to involve SOAR members in organizing, corporate campaigns, legislative battles and other issues impacting our union.

5. We pledge to recognize the commonality of interest between active members and retirees, considering the needs of retired USW members in all our bargaining, social and political efforts. We will work together to combat threats to healthcare, retirement security and other necessary programs that affect both active and retired members.

6. We will encourage SOAR to continue its political work, backing candidates at all levels of government who support the rights and interests of working people and retirees, and engaging with issues that impact USW members and retired USW members alike.

As passed at the USW Constitutional Convention held in Las Vegas, NV, August 11, 2022.