



WOMEN OF STEEL NEWS

MAY 2024

FROM THE UNION

USW leaders remember and honor late Woman of Steel Cindy Marlow

Leaders and activists with the USW have flooded email inboxes and social media with messages of condolences and cherished memories of Woman of Steel Cindy Marlow, who passed away on April 23 after a long, hard-fought battle with cancer.

“Cindy spent her life fighting for others,” said District 4 Director Dave Wasiura. “She worked tirelessly not only for her union family but for all of those who needed a voice.”

Marlow, who was a USW member since 1989, was best known for her giving spirit, which led to her serving in a variety of roles, including chair of the USW Women of Steel WNY Council and president of Local 3609.



“For those in the Western New York Labor Movement, Cindy’s name is well-known,” wrote Tom Campbell in a [piece last December in WNY Labor Today](#) focusing on her battle with cancer.

“From raising countless amounts of money for food and diaper drives to annually knitting dozens of winter hats...Cindy has been a constant over the course of time, always putting others in front of herself and being there to help when those many needs arise.”

Even as she was undergoing chemotherapy treatment, Marlow continued to serve others by tying scarves around trees and railings in Buffalo for those in need.

“She dedicated her life to advocating for equality, justice, and empowerment for women everywhere,” wrote District 4 Women of Steel Coordinator Mariel Cruz Martinez. “Her passion, courage, and resilience touched the lives of countless individuals and made a lasting impact on our community.”

[Click here to learn more about Cindy Marlow.](#)

SISTER STORIES

Janet Baic looks to engage next generation of women activists at Local 9548

When Janet Baic first started working at Tenaris Algoma Tubes in Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, in 2013, she was only one of a handful of women at the Canadian pipe manufacturing facility.

Now, in 2024, an influx of women at the plant is bringing a sense of revival to Local 9548's Women of Steel (WOS) committee.



Figure 1: Janet Baic pictured on far right

“Out of the nearly 700 people in the union, I don’t even know how many women we have,” said Baic. “I’ve lost count, actually.”

Baic is using this opportunity to breathe new life into the local’s WOS committee and engage more of the women in union work.

“The focus for us right now is spreading the word to all of these new women,” Baic said. “I was also able to give each of them the USW guide on [Raising the Bar on Women’s Health and Safety](#), which is super helpful.”

Baic said these types of resources are necessary for women who have jobs like hers—laborious, dirty, and sometimes dangerous.

“There are some issues that only women see and experience, so having that support is vital.”

[Click here to read Baic’s full story.](#)

IN THE NEWS

DOL: Child care crisis persists as mothers’ employment grows

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Women’s Bureau revealed last month that the share of employed mothers is 1.9 percent higher now than in February 2020. Although this is a good sign for the economy’s recovery, one major challenge still persists: finding adequate, accessible, and affordable child care.

According to the Women’s Bureau analysis of the Current Population Survey, in 2023, among employed parents who did not work in the prior week, 3.1 percent of mothers and 1.1 percent of fathers reported child care problems as the reason for not working.

The DOL said that [expanding and strengthening the U.S. care infrastructure](#) could help alleviate these work disruptions and likely bolster mothers’ employment even further.

[Click here to read more.](#)

DIGITAL DIVE

Learn about the diverse experiences of AANHPI women at work

May is Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month. USW Women of Steel joins communities across the United States and Canada in celebrating the diverse culture and history of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities.

This year is a great time to revisit a report released by the Department of Labor in 2021 detailing the diverse experiences of AANHPI women at work. Because education makes us all stronger.

[Click here to access the report.](#)