



PENNSYLVANIA

# NEWS FOR THE UNITED STEELWORKERS IN DISTRICT 10



### District Conference Held

The annual District 10 conference was held June 10-13 at the Kalahari Resorts and Convention Center in Pocono Manor, Pa. Day one of the conference featured a number of guest speakers, including Scott Paul, president of the Alliance for American Manufacturing; Roy Houseman, USW legislative director; Maurice Cobb, Pennsylvania AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer; and International President Dave McCall, who spoke about the state of our union and the importance of this November's elections.

Days two and three featured educational classes. Delegates got to choose from multiple selections, including Arbitration from an Arbitrator's Perspective, Financial Officers Training, Grievance Handling, Local Union Administration, Communications, OSHA 10, Strategic Campaigns, Health and Safety, Workers' Compensation, and Rapid Response.

On day four, the final day of the conference, the featured speakers were International Secretary-Treasurer John Shinn, International Vice President Emil Ramirez and International Vice President Luis Mendoza. We also had a virtual appearance by Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro.

During the conference, several awards were presented. Staff Representative Jim Watt received the Lifetime Achievement Award, and Local 3657 received the James D. English Award for exceptional Rapid Response participation. District 10 Achievement Awards were presented to Jenise Brown, the Pitt faculty unit of Local 1088, Colton Smith and Joe Brown. Finally, the Mickey Bolt award was presented to George Walsh of Local 10-00086.

### Lobby Day in Harrisburg

On June 25, a couple of hundred District 10 members met in Harrisburg and lobbied for legislation important to our members. The lobbying effort focused primarily on the Senate. There are a number of pro-labor pieces of legislation that have been stuck in the labor committee in the Senate. We talked to legislators about

the importance of getting these bills a vote. We hope to report back to you in the next edition that we were successful in getting some of this legislation passed in the Senate and onto the governor for his signature.

### Pete Buttigieg Visits Local 1688

U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg visited with Local 1688 members and toured the Cleveland Cliffs steel mill in Steelton, Pa. Secretary Buttigieg was joined by Governor Shapiro to highlight the work being created by major federal infrastructure investments. The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act has injected billions of dollars into Pennsylvania infrastructure spending and has created thousands of Pennsylvania jobs.

### Pitt Faculty Ratify First Contract

After what began in 2017 as a conversation between a few Pitt faculty members and an organizer, the faculty at the University of Pittsburgh ratified a historic first contract covering more than 3,000 new District 10 members in May. The contract sets a new \$60,000 salary minimum and many other benefits. The contract was ratified with 98% of voters voting yes.



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**BERNIE HALL**  
DISTRICT 10 DIRECTOR

# SOME THINGS THAT EVERY UNION MEMBER SHOULD KNOW ABOUT A SAFETY COMMITTEE

(PART ONE)

The twin goals of a Union safety and health program are to improve working conditions and to build our Union. These goals are equally important. In fact, you cannot do either one well unless you do both. Management and the Union have **different** safety and health goals. Management may care about safety in its own right, but be more concerned with workers' compensation costs. Building our Union is never one of management's goals. Labor-management safety and health discussions are a form of collective bargaining – it takes 'strategic planning' and will help us build our Union.

Members may not see it that way, but management does. Management is there to meet its goals; the Union must be there to meet our goals as well. Safety and health issues are not just technical. Although technical knowledge is sometimes helpful, strategy and organization are much more important. Every Local Union and Unit needs to have a Union-only safety and health committee.

The Union leadership should create one even if your workplace does not have a labor-management safety and health committee. You do not need the employer's permission to establish a Union committee.

It's a **good idea** to have a labor-management safety and health committee, with equal numbers of representatives from both the Union and management. Its goal should always be to identify health and safety issues and determine actions to deal with each of them in the short and long-term. Management representatives on the labor-management committee must have authority to make decisions so that the identified problems can be addressed quickly and efficiently. Labor-management committees can be a good way to resolve ongoing safety and health problems as well.

Even if you have a labor-management committee, however, you still need a Union-only committee. The Union committee can be made up of Union members on the labor-management committee and can also include Union leaders, especially Union activists. One of our District's goals for 2024 is to build and strengthen the effectiveness of our Local Union Health and Safety Committees. The specific logistical details are still being finalized at this point. Director Hall's initiative is to bring the training close to the areas where our members live. Health and safety has been a critical and special tool not only in collective bargaining, but also in organizing non-represented workers.

Not only can we bargain for good health and safety language in our contracts, but we must also push the legislative agenda for healthier and safer workplaces for all workers.

A prime example of that legislative agenda is the **FACT** that Pennsylvania public sector employees (many of whom are represented by the USW) are **not** covered by the federal OSHA standards. However, now in the Pennsylvania Legislature, important public sector OSHA legislation (HB-299) has been passed by the state House, and now the Senate is debating its own public sector OSHA bill (SB-93). Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro has promised that if either bill hits his desk, he will sign it. All members should contact their state senators and urge them to support SB-93, mandating OSHA protection for Public Sector Workers.

The Union side of the labor-management committee should meet by itself as often as it meets with management. Separate meetings are important to set Union priorities and to do strategic planning. Can you imagine what would happen if your bargaining committee met only with the company at contract time, and never by itself?

Many employer safety programs focus on worker behavior and tell our members that we are the problem. We believe that our members and their Union are the perfect solution. Hazards are the real problem. It is that simple!

You should never allow the company to appoint your safety and health representatives, to veto the Union's choices, to be the only ones to set the meeting's agenda, or to dismiss your reps from their Union safety positions.

**We run our Union, not the employer.**

I would encourage all Local Unions to **make every effort to attend our 2024 United Steelworkers Health, Safety and Environment Conference** at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, Aug. 18-23, 2024. The call letters were sent out earlier this year and can be found on our International website ([usw.org](http://usw.org)). All registration must be done online. Registration closes on July 31, 2024. We hope to see you all there.

In closing, and as a safety tip, I would suggest that as we move from one season to another, we take a few minutes to "physically warm up" prior to engaging in strenuous spring, summer, fall and winter activities. Some of us may have become a bit deconditioned from one season to another. So, take a few minutes to warm up with exercise prior to beginning strenuous seasonal activities. Those exercises may pay off in avoiding painful strains and muscle pulls. Just like professional athletes, we too need to do those loosening up, bending and stretching exercising to recondition our bodies for those seasonal activities.

*Jim Watt, District 10*

*Health Safety & Environment Coordinator*



# WOS SPOTLIGHT: LOCAL 53G ELECTS TOP TWO WOMEN OFFICERS

For the first time ever, Local 53G, Insta-Brands, located in Charleroi Pa., has elected two women as the top officers. A big congratulations to President Heather Roberts and Vice President Danielle Byrne.

Heather, a 17-year employee, has worked as a Selector and Eldred Operator and in Quality Control and Production Support. She has been a steward for four terms in the Finishing Department as well as an IRC Zone Rep and held the position of vice president for the past two terms. Danielle has been employed there for 34 years and has worked as a Selector, Neo-pac Operator, Set-up Operator, Shipping Worker and Trainer and is now a Scheduler. With the Union, she has been an IRC Rep and is now vice president. Congratulations to Heather and Danielle!!!

# MANUFACTURING BOOTCAMP

**AUGUST  
13-15  
2024**

Join the United Steelworkers and Community College of Allegheny County for a Summer Manufacturing Bootcamp, **designed exclusively for 16 to 18-year-olds**. This program offers hands-on experience with the latest in manufacturing technology, teamwork, and the opportunity to learn about the largest industrial union in North America. Join us for a summer of learning and growth, and take the first step towards a rewarding career in manufacturing. After completion, students will receive an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 10-hour General Industry Certificate.



REGISTER HERE:



<http://usw.to/ccac-bootcamp>

## 2024 D10 EVENTS AND TRAININGS

**July 15 - 16**  
Grievance Handling  
Coatesville

**July 17 - 18**  
Grievance Handling  
Bethlehem

**July 20**  
Golf Outing  
Linden Hall

**July 21**  
Pirates vs Phillies  
PNC Park

**July 22 - 23**  
Grievance Handling  
Pittsburgh

**July 24 - 25**  
Grievance Handling  
Wheatland

**July 27**  
Motorcycle Run  
Kittanning

**Aug. 5 - 8**  
Nat'l Paper Bargaining Conf.  
Austin, TX

**Aug. 10**  
Sporting Clays Shoot  
Buffer Creek Sporting Clays

**Aug. 11**  
Picnic - West  
Idlewild & SoakZone

**Aug. 11 - 15**  
Workers' Comp - East  
The Woodlands

**Aug. 18 - 23**  
USW HSE Conf.  
Pittsburgh

**Sept. 2**  
Labor Day Parade  
Pittsburgh

**Sept. 17 - 19**  
National Oil Bargaining Conf.  
Pittsburgh

**Sept. 23**  
Presidents Meeting - West  
Pittsburgh

**Sept. 27**  
Presidents Meeting - East  
Harrisburg

**Sept. 29 - Oct 3**  
Women of Steel I  
Linden Hall

**Sept. 29 - Oct 3**  
Next Gen I  
Linden Hall

**Oct. 13 - 16**  
Civil & Human Rights  
Linden Hall

**Oct. 27 - 31**  
Workers' Comp - West  
Linden Hall

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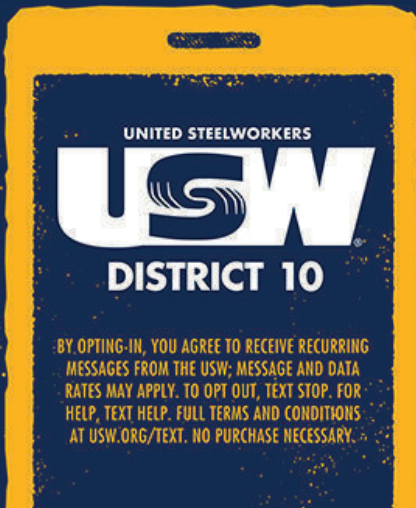
# STAY CURRENT ON DISTRICT 10 UPDATES



**D**istrict 10 undertook the extensive task of building a new communication network this year to help you, our members, stay connected with what's happening around the state. Hopefully, you've already seen some of our messages!

This new network includes creating an email and text messaging system so that we can share information about the latest news, trainings and events, member and retiree highlights and so much more. If something is happening, we want you to know about it.

To sign up for the email updates, go to [www.usw.org/districts/10](http://www.usw.org/districts/10) and click on "sign up for the email updates." To sign up for text updates, send the message D10 to the phone number 47486 or you can scan the QR code to get started.



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