



PENNSYLVANIA

# NEWS FOR THE UNITED STEELWORKERS IN DISTRICT 10

**A**s we kick off 2024, it is shaping up to be one of the busiest years ever for our District.

We included our 2024 calendar of events in this edition in case you have not yet seen it. When you look at the calendar, note that it does not include the hundreds of events individual locals hold, the 150 or so contracts we will bargain this year, or the dozens of requests we receive throughout the year from locals and units for specific training.

It is important that every local gets involved and sends representatives to District events. Our unity is our greatest asset, and we are at our strongest and get the most done when we work together. Check with your local union and see how you can get involved.

## Education 2024

Two years ago, we rededicated ourselves to making education more affordable and accessible to every member. This year we plan to continue making changes to achieve this goal. Our educational program will conduct more seminars this year than ever. It is a lot of work, and we are tapping into every resource available to make this happen. Several of our staff have stepped up and volunteered to help facilitate classes. Personnel from the various departments of our international union will be doing quite a bit of facilitating, and, most importantly, we are in the process of preparing several local union members to become worker trainers to ensure we can accommodate the training requests we receive from every local.

Here are a couple of different things we are doing this year I wish to highlight:

- Beginning in June, immediately following local union elections, we will hold one-day seminars across the state for both union officers and financial officers. These classes will be held in Pittsburgh, Erie, Wilkes Barre, Linwood, Steelton, and Johnsonburg. We ask that every local participate, especially newly

elected officials. We have arranged these to be held in different parts of the state, with no registration fees, so that cost would not be a barrier. It will be one day of the basics that you will need to run an effective local and to go over the required responsibilities of your office. We hope to make this a regular occurrence every three years following local union elections.

- One of the new offerings this year was an OSHA 30 class. This seminar, which includes work with the Tony Mazzocchi Center (TMC), has no registration fee. You will also receive an OSHA certification upon completion. Within two weeks of announcing the class, we had reached the maximum. I am happy to tell you that we have made arrangements and secured instructors to add a second class that same week. Once the second group fills up, we will need to stop accepting registrations.

## District Organizing

District 10 continues to be a leader in growing our Union. Across the state, we have several campaigns in various stages. Workers at the Eastern State Penitentiary Museum and the faculty at the University of Pittsburgh are close to voting on their first USW contracts this spring. We have upcoming elections at a couple of locations to start the process of bargaining, and we expect to file for a couple more by summer. While all this is great news, we need to do more. We receive organizing leads every week from all over. We are looking for local unions to step up through their organizing committees and assist these workers in forming a union. Contact your staff representative if your local is interested.

## District 10 Members Win Elections

No one understands the issues workers face more than we do. That's why it is important we engage at every level of government. Last November, a number of District 10 members ran for office in their community and won.

We have members serving on town and county boards, municipal authorities, as mayor, district attorney, and our very own Congressman Chris Deluzio. This fall we anticipate more of our members getting engaged in the process. If you are thinking about running and would like to learn more about how the union can possibly help, contact the District office.

## Your Union, Your Voice

This year will be a busy year politically. There will be a presidential election, as well as U.S. Senate, congressional, and state-level contests. Just as we have done the last two election cycles, we will be doing membership surveys about what is important to you, town hall meetings, and engaging as many members as we can. We will be advertising these meetings across the District. This is your opportunity to weigh in on where we stand as a union. In an era more polarized than ever, we must have candid conversations amongst ourselves so that we remain united. Keep an eye out for more information, and I hope to see you there.



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**BERNIE HALL**  
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# DISTRICT 10 COORDINATORS

Every USW local provides members with numerous opportunities to get involved, often through the USW's various committees. District 10 has a staff of coordinators, pictured here, who are assigned to each of these areas to assist members with this important work, including Civil and Human Rights, Women of Steel, Rapid Response, Next Gen, Veterans of Steel, Health and Safety, Education, Health Care Workers Council and SOAR.

By attending meetings and getting involved in local union committees, members can join the fight for safer and healthier workplaces, they can help to elect leaders who will fight to protect workers' wages, benefits and rights on the job, and they can advocate for more stronger communities for all.



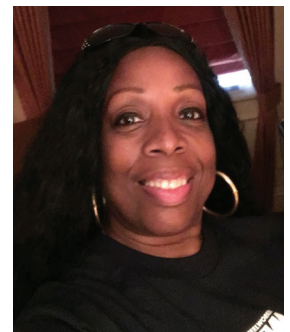
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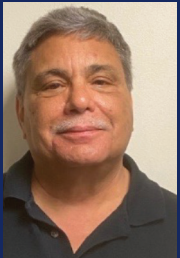
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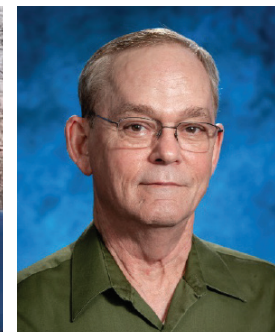
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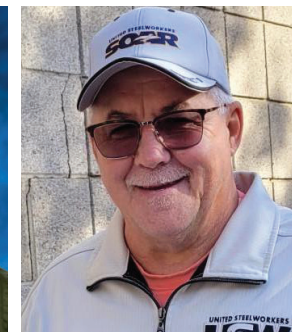
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& NEXT GEN



**LOGAN MILLER**  
NEXT GEN



**JAMES WATT**  
HEALTH, SAFETY AND  
ENVIRONMENT



**DAVE HARVEY**  
SOAR



Maurice Cobb is a committee member of the Robust Education, Workforce Development, and Youth Investments committee.

## ALLEGHENY COUNTY TEAM INCLUDES THREE DISTRICT 10 LEADERS

The newly elected leader of Pennsylvania’s second-largest county tapped three members from

District 10 to serve on her transition committee as she prepares to begin her term as Allegheny County’s first-ever woman County Executive.

Sara Innamorato, a former state legislator who represented parts of Pittsburgh and its suburbs in her former office, took the oath of office as the fourth Allegheny County executive on Jan. 2. In that role, she oversees a population of more than 1.2 million residents.

Innamorato sought help in her transition to her new job from USW leaders. District 10 Director Bernie Hall was named co-chair of the Sustainability, Environmental Justice, and a Green Economy policy committee while Maurice Cobb, who serves as the district Rapid Response coordinator, was appointed to the Robust Education, Workforce Development, and Youth Investments policy committee.

Sabrina Liu, who is the assistant director of USW strategic campaigns and also is the founder and president

of the Pittsburgh chapter of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, was named co-chair of the Vibrant Democracy policy committee.

Hall said it is vital for unions to have a voice at the table and that the transition team is one way to ensure workers’ concerns receive proper attention.

“We look forward to advocating for our members to make sure they are a top priority for County Executive Innamorato,” said Hall. “Workers everywhere deserve good jobs, a clean and robust economy, and a democracy that represents them all.”

The USW appointees joined nearly 200 diverse leaders on the transition team tasked with building an action plan for the county government to deliver on community needs.

Innamorato also tapped a handful of other labor leaders for her transition team, including Darrin Kelly, president of the Allegheny-Fayette Central Labor Council.

## VETERANS OF STEEL

In 2022, under the leadership of then International President Tom Conway, the USW Veterans of Steel program was formed. The program is member-driven and designed to assist USW members who are also veterans. The program’s vision was to work on such issues as drafting template contract language surrounding veteran’s issues, working to increase access to USW jobs for veterans, lobbying for veterans’ issues, helping our veterans find the care they may need, and helping ensure adequate funding for the Veterans Administration. Since its inception, we have seen several District 10 locals form committees. Just in the past 12 months we have seen these committees lobbying in Harrisburg for pro-veteran legislation, doing volunteer work at shelters, drafting contract proposals to meet the needs of active-duty families and holding fundraisers, just to name a few.

If your Local hasn’t formed a Veterans of Steel committee or if you need help getting yours going, we will gladly assist. Speak with your staff representative, or reach out to a Veterans of Steel coordinator. We are also planning a workshop at this year’s District conference. Representatives from the VA will be joining us to talk about the resources they have available and to talk about benefits some veterans may not be aware of.

We encourage every local to have at least one delegate sign up for the Veterans of Steel workshop at the District conference. As a union, we are committed to doing everything we can to support all veterans.

## WOMEN OF STEEL

In the past three years, more than 100 of our sisters from across Pennsylvania have started through the District 10 Women of Steel (WOS) leadership program. The program consists of three levels, with participants attending one level per year. The goal is to empower participants with the tools and knowledge they need to take an increased role within our union. Participants who take part in the program are encouraged to actively engage, not just at their own local, but with work that the District does across the state. The three levels focus on different skills and tools that include self-empowerment, public speaking, labor history, steward and grievance training, arbitration, fundamentals of collective bargaining, health and safety, civil and human rights, workman’s compensation and much more. Most importantly they work with one another to ensure that every sister feels supported and welcomed to get involved.

As graduate participants have gone back to their locals, we’ve seen them energize their local WOS committee, become more active in the collective bargaining process, take on leadership roles, and also give back to their community. Through their local union, we have seen the WOS program go to work in communities across the state. They’ve worked with food banks, women’s shelters, community clean-ups, clothing drives and programs to ensure all kids have the supplies they need when going back to school.

WOS is a constitutionally mandated committee. If your local does not currently have an active committee, reach out and we can help get one started!

2023 was a busy year for the Rapid Response program on a state and federal level. Together, with the help of worker-friendly lawmakers from both parties, we saw numerous bills passed through the Pennsylvania House. Still, there is work to do. These bills must pass the Senate and be signed by the governor before they become law. Here is a look back at some of the bills that USW members helped to push forward over the past year in Harrisburg:

### **HB 299 (Harkins)**

#### **Public Sector OSHA**

Promotes consistent and comprehensive safety standards by applying the protections afforded to private sector employees under OSHA to public employees.

- Voted out of the House on 5/2/23
- Vote Yes: 166/No: 85
- Referred to Senate Intergovernmental Operations Committee

### **HB 413 (Galloway)**

#### **Contract Specifications for Independent Construction Contractors**

Addresses misclassification in the construction industry by further specifying that a worker would only be considered an independent contractor if the written contract is project-specific and time-specific.

- Voted out of the House on 5/2/23
- Vote Yes: 113/No: 88
- Referred to Senate Labor and Industry Committee

### **HB 930 (Dawkins)**

#### **Workers' Comp (Disfigurement)**

Expands Workers' Compensation Coverage for permanent disfigurement.

- Voted out of the House on 5/2/23
- Vote Yes: 112/No: 88
- Referred to Senate Labor and Industry Committee

### **HB 760 (Pisciottano)**

#### **Workers' Comp (Direct Deposit)**

Allows Workers' Compensation claimants to receive compensation via direct deposit.

- Voted out of the House on 5/2/23
- Vote Yes: 114/No: 86
- Referred to Senate Labor and Industry Committee

### **HB 106 (Mehaffie)**

#### **Patient Safety Act**

Amends Health Care Facilities Act regarding patients, providing for hospital patient protection provisions and imposing penalties.

- Voted out of the House on 6/28/23
- Vote Yes: 119/No: 84
- Referred to Senate Health and Human Services Committee

### **HB 1481 (Steele/Miller)**

#### **UC Eligibility for Striking Workers**

Would allow workers who are unemployed due to a labor dispute to be eligible for unemployment compensation (UC) benefits. Locked-out workers would be immediately eligible for UC benefits, and striking workers would be eligible after a 30-day waiting period.

- Voted out of the House on 11/15/23
- Vote Yes: 106/No: 97
- Referred to Senate Labor and Industry Committee



# **RAPID RESPONSE**



It's been many years since we've seen this amount of pro-worker bills introduced and passed through the House. Without the emails, calls, and face-to-face meetings our locals have had with house members, these bills would not have passed. Because of the work of our activists, we have seen these bills through with members of both parties voting in favor. That is the power we have working together.

But the work isn't done. We still need to get these bills passed in the Senate and signed by the governor. We have been working for months to get to work in the Senate. We will be leading lobbying days beginning in March once the Senate resumes normal business. In the meantime, reach out to your state senator and tell them to support these bills and get involved in your Local's Rapid Response Committee. It will be a heavy lift getting some of these bills brought up for a vote let alone passed. We need everyone involved. There is no guarantee of success if we try, but we will surely fail if we don't. Let's go to work!



Harrisburg, PA

# 2024 DISTRICT 10 EVENTS AND TRAININGS

January 22 - 24	<b>Rapid Response</b>	Hilton Harrisburg
February 12	<b>LM Workshop</b>	Pittsburgh
February 13	<b>LM Workshop</b>	Pittsburgh
February 14	<b>LM Workshop</b>	Wheatland
February 22	<b>LM Workshop</b>	Wilkes-Barre
February 23	<b>LM Workshop</b>	Steelton
February 26	<b>LM Workshop</b>	Bethlehem
February 26 - 29	<b>OSHA 30-Hour Training Course</b>	Pittsburgh
March 3 - 8	<b>International Next Generation Conference</b>	Pittsburgh
April 13	<b>Phillies vs Pirates</b>	Citizens Bank Park
April 21 - 25	<b>Women of Steel III</b>	Linden Hall
April 21 - 25	<b>Next Gen III</b>	Linden Hall
May 12 - 16	<b>Women of Steel II</b>	Linden Hall
May 12 - 16	<b>Next Gen II</b>	Linden Hall
May 19 - 22	<b>Rapid Response Legislative and Policy Conference</b>	Washington, D.C.
June 9 - 12	<b>Civil and Human Rights Conference</b>	Detroit, MI
June 9 - 13	<b>District Conference</b>	Kalahari Resorts & Conventions
June 17	<b>Officer Training</b>	Pittsburgh
June 18	<b>Financial Training</b>	Pittsburgh
June 20	<b>Officer Training</b>	Erie
June 21	<b>Financial Training</b>	Erie
June 24	<b>Officer Training</b>	Wilkes-Barre
June 25	<b>Financial Training</b>	Wilkes-Barre
June 27	<b>Officer Training</b>	Linwood
June 28	<b>Financial Training</b>	Linwood

June 30	<b>Picnic - East</b>	Hersheypark
July 1	<b>Officer Training</b>	Steelton
July 2	<b>Financial Training</b>	Steelton
July 8	<b>Officer Training</b>	Johnsonburg
July 9	<b>Financial Training</b>	Johnsonburg
July 15 - 16	<b>Grievance Handling</b>	Coatesville
July 17 - 18	<b>Grievance Handling</b>	Bethlehem
July 19 - 20	<b>Golf Outing</b>	Linden Hall
July 21	<b>Pirates vs Phillies</b>	PNC Park
July 22 - 23	<b>Grievance Handling</b>	Pittsburgh
July 24 - 25	<b>Grievance Handling</b>	Wheatland
July 27	<b>Motorcycle Run</b>	TBD
July 5 - 8	<b>National Paper Bargaining Conference</b>	Austin, TX
August 10	<b>Sporting Clays Shoot</b>	Buffer Creek Sporting Clays
August 11	<b>Picnic - West</b>	Idlewild & SoakZone
August 11 - 15	<b>Workers' Comp - East</b>	The Woodlands
August 18 - 23	<b>USW Health, Safety and Environment Conference</b>	Pittsburgh
September 2	<b>Labor Day Parade</b>	Pittsburgh
September 15 - 20	<b>National Oil Bargaining Conference</b>	Pittsburgh
September 23	<b>Presidents Meeting - West</b>	Pittsburgh
September 27	<b>Presidents Meeting - East</b>	Harrisburg
September 29 - Oct 3	<b>Women of Steel I</b>	Linden Hall
September 29 - Oct 3	<b>Next Gen I</b>	Linden Hall
October 13 - 16	<b>Civil &amp; Human Rights</b>	Linden Hall
October 27 - 31	<b>Workers' Comp - West</b>	Linden Hall

# SAVE THE DATE

# D10 CONFERENCE

# JUNE 9-13 2024

**KALAHARI RESORTS  
POCONO MANOR, PA**

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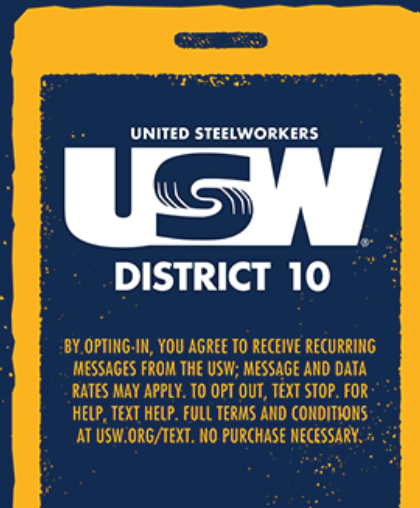
# STAY CURRENT ON DISTRICT 10 UPDATES



District 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 systems 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.



**RECEIVE  
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