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NEWS FOR THE UNITED STEELWORKERS IN

DISTRICT 4

It's early September and I'm hoping everyone had a good Labor Day weekend. This is not only a time to spend with family and friends, but also a time to reflect on how important unions are in our lives.

USW District 4 is coming off of our very successful Education Conference which was held in Atlantic City, N.J. this summer. We were fortunate to have speakers from many of the different state labor federations in our District as well as leaders from our International Union.

This was one of the largest conferences District 4 has held in recent years and attendance in the General Session and in the classes was fantastic. We are now in the process of taking your feedback and trying to improve the next one that will be held in 2026.

Many conference speakers talked about the election this November. Not from a Democratic or Republican standpoint, but through the lens of who is going to stand up for workers and the middle class.

It's very important to know that as an International Union and right here in District 4, we use many different tools when we are deciding who we will and will not endorse. We take this process very seriously.

On the state and local levels, interviews with candidates take place, either in our local Central Labor Councils or by the District leadership, one-on-one. At the federal level, every candidate who is seeking our endorsement MUST fill out the United Steelworkers Federal questionnaire.

The questionnaire is the result of the Town Hall Meetings which were held across all the USW Districts in the United States. In those meetings, we got feedback from our members on what their most important issues are, and what our core values should be. No candidate will receive resources from the USW if they have not filled out this questionnaire

with the answers being 100% correct. There are times when we will work with candidates and their campaign staff if there are questions about the issues that we have brought up and use this as a teachable moment on what is important to our membership.

Candidates from both sides of the aisle have sought out and gained our endorsement. From New York State Assembly members in Western New York, Congressmen in New Jersey, and Republicans in the New Hampshire statehouse who stood strong against the disastrous so-called "Right to Work" laws that extremists were trying to pass that would diminish our ability to negotiate strong collective bargaining agreements; we have stood by those who have stood with us.

Shortly after the District 4 Education Conference, the USW Health, Safety, and Environment Conference took place in Pittsburgh. Once again, District 4 had a large showing at this important conference.

We've all seen the statistics about how much more union jobs pay or how much better the benefits are in a unionized workforce, but nothing is more important than the work we do with safety and health.

No matter if we work in the public sector, private sector, manufacturing or health care, our top goal as a union is to ensure that our workplaces are as safe as they possibly can be, so our members can go home at the end of their workday the same way they came to work.

This is not something that can happen overnight, and is a continually evolving process. District 4 offers continual training on safety and health. It is very important for our locals and our membership to take part in this training as much as possible. This should not just be the responsibility of Local Union leadership, but also safety and health coordinators, and rank and file members. It is everyone's responsibility to make

sure that they and the people around them are as safe as they possibly can be.

This year has been a particularly difficult year for District 4 when it comes to safety and health and fatalities in the workplace. Because of the amount of training we do we have some of the lowest fatality rates in the industry, but because of how difficult things have been, and the members we have lost, we need to recommit to the safety process.

As we are approaching the holiday season, I hope everyone has a wonderful rest of the year and gets to enjoy some time with family and friends.

Lastly, I want to thank all of you who have stepped up to support our striking Sisters and Brothers at Local 6129 who are on strike against Silgan Container. As this article was written, they are still taking on a corporation that wants to take away their rights and put them in unsafe working conditions. Please continue to support our sisters and brothers and if you are in the Edison, N.J. area, stop by the picket line and show your solidarity.



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DAVID M. WASIURA
DISTRICT 4 DIRECTOR

SYRACUSE CARY ELDRIDGE SUB-DISTRICT DIRECTOR

We are proud to have presented Julie Searle the Syracuse District 4 Activist Award at the Educational Conference in August this year. Julie has dedicated many years of service to her union and to the Women of Steel. Congratulations Julie on this much-deserved honor!

We are excited to once again have Mike Clary working on our political campaigns this fall. Mike's hard work and dedication helped make the difference in a win last year. We are confident that Mike's contributions will help us to victory fighting for issues that the USW supports.

Health & Safety

We would like to announce and welcome one of our newest Syracuse area safety trainers, Rodney Sharpe. Rodney has been a USW member of local 1277 and a steelworker at Crucible Steel Industries for 28 years and has been an advocate for safety since the beginning.

Organizing

We are continuously focused on organizing in the sub-district. This is how we build our future and our union. It is important to grow and learn to build a better future for everyone.

Presidents Meeting – December 13

At our next Presidents meeting in the Syracuse office, we want to hear from YOU! We want to hear your local's wants and needs for training for 2026. We will customize our training schedule based on your feedback.

1. Steve Finnigan, Al Smith, Rick Sauer, Jack Vander Baan, Julie Searle, Cary Eldridge, Dave Wasiura and Wendy Colucci.
2. Mike Clary
3. Rodney Sharpe from USW Local 1277 at Crucible Steel.



BUFFALO JIM BRIGGS, SUB-DISTRICT DIRECTOR

The Buffalo Sub-District has been extremely busy participating in a public campaign supporting our members from Local 9434 at the Niagara Falls Water Board. The public campaign consisted of political lobbying and door knocking. During the dispute over terms and conditions of employment at the Niagara Falls Water Board, they announced they were reducing the health care benefits for our retirees who enjoyed fully paid health insurance when they retired. This became the focal point of our campaign, and we became even more involved in local elections.

We were able to secure support from two seats on the City Council, including an appointment to the Niagara Falls Water Board, and through the hard work of Director David Wasiura and Assistant to the Director Stephen Finnigan, we were able to convince the Governor to change her appointment as well. This resulted in the Niagara Falls Water Board becoming a voice of labor and not a voice of management. Within a month, we restored the health insurance for our retirees and entered into bargaining a new agreement starting September 6.

When you look at this campaign, it shows clearly that

elections matter and elections have consequences. I would never tell anyone how to vote, but I ask if you want the kind of results that we have seen in this situation, vote union candidates into office!

USW participation was extremely high at our Workers Memorial Day event where we honored those who lost their lives. We take a great deal of pride in our monument, and our union was a huge supporter of this monument.

We just finished celebrating Labor Day, and our District was active and involved at both the Buffalo Parade in Erie County and the Niagara Orleans Council parade in Niagara County. We must remember that events like winning bargaining battles, such as the one above, honoring our brothers and sisters on Workers Memorial Day, and enjoying the day at the parade with our families only happens because of the solidarity of our union.

So, I again remind you, over the next couple of months to think about your family, the things you have in your life that you enjoy most besides them, and the next generation and cast your vote for candidates who support us as a whole!



MILFORD JOHN BUONOPANE, SUB-DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Maine Labor Council 2024

Staff Rep Mike Higgins addressed USW local union officials and delegates during the Maine Labor Council Spring Convention May 1-3 in Bangor, Maine.

American Roots

USW Reps recently met with Maine State Senator Troy Jackson at the USW-represented employer American Roots (located in Westbrook, Maine). Senator Jackson has been a longtime supporter of unions and working people. The group met to talk about issues that are important to working families and tour the plant where real “American Made” products are produced by our union brothers and sisters.

Local 12160 Contract Campaign

Local 12160 has been without a contract with the Connecticut Regional Water Authority since April 2023. The local union is currently in interest arbitration over wages, pension, benefits, overtime, and management rights. As part of their contract campaign to educate people within

the community about their fight for fairness and against inequality in the workplace, the union rented a billboard located on I-95 and I-91 in Connecticut.

Local 449 Members Help Build Home for Family

Workers from the Huhtamaki mill recently helped build a habitat home for a military veteran and his two children in Oakland, Maine. Some of the members previously built houses for the Waterville area Habitat for Humanity.

Workers Memorial Day at the Mass. State House

Staff Rep Keith Odume joined over a hundred advocates at the Workers Memorial Day event in front of the Massachusetts State House to read the names of workers who lost their lives due to a fatal illness or injury on the job in 2023.

1. Sub-Director John Buonopane, Staff Rep. John Perry, Maine State Senator Troy Jackson, Staff Rep. Mike Higgins and Local 366 Unit 21 President Dave Butler.
2. Levi Orff, Bob Hennigan, Corey Saucier, Dan Coloumbe, Justin James, Gary Nelson, Roy Barnaby and Paul Clark.



EDISON MICHAEL L. FISHER, SUB-DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Congratulations to Will Fernandez from Local 14753 who was honored with the New York Association of Pupil Transportation’s Driver of the Year award. Brother Will drives for Huntington Coach on Long Island, New York.

USW members from the Edison Sub-District and the New York and New Jersey SOAR chapters took part in the New York City Central Labor Council Labor Day Parade in September. They joined 80,000 other union siblings, friends and supporters as they took part in the annual march up Fifth

Avenue, the oldest Labor Day Parade in the country.

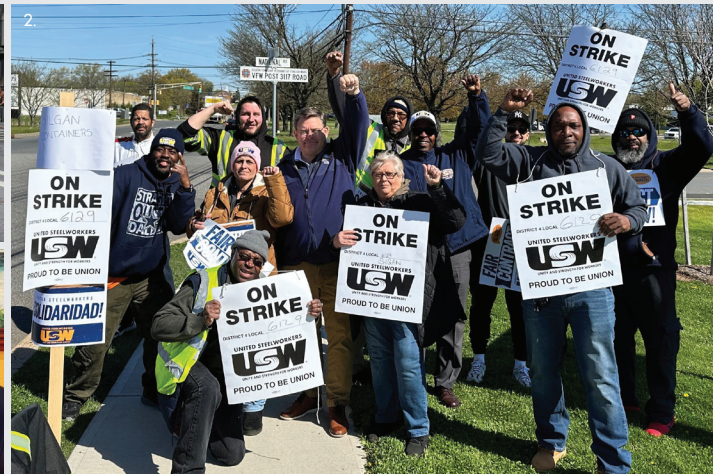
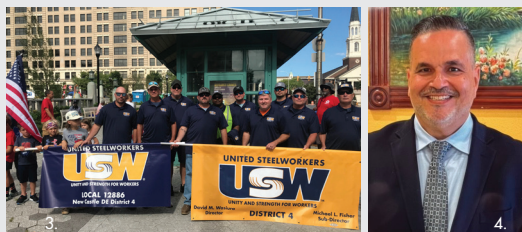
In ongoing news, Local 6129 is still on strike against Silgan Container. These union siblings have been out on strike since April of this year, fighting against the company’s concessionary demands. District Director David Wasiura and our local SOAR Chapter have been making regular visits to the strike line, as have officers and members of other area local unions, USW and others. We encourage USW members who are in the Edison, N.J. area to come by and help support these union siblings.

1. Mike Fisher, Sub-District Director for the N.Y.-N.J. Metro Area (center), pictured with USW members at the 2024 Labor Day Parade on Fifth Avenue in New York City.

2. District 4 Director David Wasiura (center) with SOAR Central N.J. activists, supporting striking Local 6129 members at Silgan Container.

3. Members of USW Local 12886 took part in the Delaware Labor Day Celebration.

4. Will Fernandez, USW Local 14753



DISTRICT 4

Official Publication of United Steelworkers
District 4. Published four times a year and
inserted in USW@Work for District 4 members.

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Estamos comenzando el mes de septiembre y espero que todos hayan tenido un buen fin de semana del Día del Trabajo. Este no es solo un momento para pasarlo con la familia y amigos, sino también un momento para reflexionar sobre lo importantes que son las uniones en nuestras vidas.

El Distrito 4 de la USW acaba de llegar de nuestra exitosa Conferencia de Educación que se llevó a cabo en Atlantic City, Nueva Jersey, este verano. Tuvimos la suerte de contar con oradores de muchas de las diferentes federaciones laborales estatales de nuestro Distrito, así como con líderes de nuestro Sindicato Internacional.

Esta fue una de las conferencias más grandes que el Distrito 4 ha llevado a cabo en los últimos años y la asistencia a la Sesión General y a las clases fue fantástica. Ahora estamos en el proceso de tomar sus comentarios y tratar de mejorar la próxima que se llevará a cabo en 2026.

Muchos oradores de la Conferencia hablaron sobre las elecciones de noviembre. No desde un punto de vista demócrata o republicano, sino a través de la lente de quién va a defender a los trabajadores y a la clase media.

Es muy importante saber que, como Unión Internacional y aquí mismo en el Distrito 4, nosotros en la USW basamos nuestros apoyos en la afiliación partidista. Utilizamos muchas herramientas diferentes cuando decidimos a quién respaldaremos y a quién no. Nos tomamos este proceso muy en serio.

A nivel estatal y local, las entrevistas con los candidatos se llevan a cabo, ya sea en nuestros Concilios Laborales Centrales locales o por el liderazgo del Distrito, uno a uno. A nivel federal, todos los candidatos que buscan nuestro respaldo DEBEN completar el cuestionario federal de la United Steelworkers.

El cuestionario es el resultado de las reuniones públicas que se llevaron a cabo en todos los distritos de la USW en los Estados Unidos. En esas reuniones, recibimos comentarios de nuestros miembros sobre cuáles son sus temas más importantes y cuáles deberían ser nuestros valores fundamentales. Ningún candidato recibirá recursos de USW si no ha completado este cuestionario con las respuestas 100% correctas. Hay ocasiones en las que trabajaremos con los candidatos y su personal de campaña si hay preguntas sobre los temas que hemos planteado y utilizaremos esto como un momento de enseñanza sobre lo que es importante para nuestra membresía.

Los candidatos de ambos lados laterales, han buscado y obtenido nuestro respaldo. Desde los asambleístas del estado de Nueva York en el oeste de Nueva York, los congresistas de Nueva Jersey y los republicanos en la cámara de representantes del estado de New Hampshire que se mantuvieron firmes contra las desastrosas leyes del llamado "Derecho al Trabajo" que los extremistas, estaban tratando de

aprobar y que disminuirían nuestra capacidad de negociar acuerdos de negociación colectiva sólidos; hemos permanecido al lado de los que estuvieron con nosotros.

Poco después de la Conferencia de Educación del Distrito 4, se llevó a cabo la Conferencia de Salud, Seguridad y Medio Ambiente de la USW en Pittsburgh, Pensilvania. Una vez más, el Distrito 4 tuvo una gran participación en la conferencia principal que celebra la USW.

Todos hemos visto las estadísticas sobre cuánto más pagan los empleos sindicalizados o cuan mejores son los beneficios en una fuerza laboral sindicalizada, pero nada es más importante que el trabajo que hacemos con seguridad y salud.

No importa si trabajamos en el sector público, el sector privado, la manufactura o la atención médica; Nuestro principal objetivo como sindicato es garantizar que nuestros lugares de trabajo sean lo más seguros posible, para que nuestros miembros puedan irse a casa al final de su jornada laboral de la misma manera en que llegaron a trabajar.

Esto no es algo que pueda suceder de la noche a la mañana, y es un proceso en continua evolución. El Distrito 4 ofrece capacitación continua sobre seguridad y salud. Es muy importante que nuestras locales y nuestros miembros participen en esta capacitación tanto como sea posible. Esto no debería ser solo responsabilidad de los líderes del Sindicato Local, sino también de los coordinadores de salud y seguridad y de los miembros en general. Es responsabilidad de todos asegurarse de que ellos y las personas que los rodean estén lo más seguros posible.

Este año ha sido un año particularmente difícil para el Distrito 4 en lo que respecta a la seguridad y la salud y las muertes en el lugar de trabajo. Debido a la cantidad de capacitación que hacemos, tenemos algunas de las tasas de mortalidad más bajas de la industria, pero debido a lo difíciles que han sido las cosas y a los miembros que hemos perdido, debemos volver a comprometernos con el proceso de seguridad.

A medida que nos acercamos a la temporada navideña, espero que todos tengan un maravilloso resto del año y puedan disfrutar de un tiempo con familiares y amigos.

Por último, quiero agradecer a todos los que han dado un paso al frente para apoyar a nuestras Hermanas y Hermanos de la Local 6129 que están en huelga contra Silgan Container. Mientras se escribe este artículo, todavía se están enfrentando a una corporación que quiere quitarles sus derechos y ponerlos en condiciones de trabajo inseguras. Por favor, continúen apoyando a nuestras hermanas y hermanos y si se encuentran en el área de Edison, Nueva Jersey, pasen por la línea de piquetes y muestren su solidaridad.

GET INVOLVED