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NEWS FOR THE UNITED STEELWORKERS IN

DISTRICT 4

It's been a busy few months since the last District 4 newsletter.

A number of anti-worker, anti-union lawmakers in New Hampshire introduced misleadingly named "right-to-work" (RTW) bills in every legislative session.

These bills are designed to restrict our power at the bargaining table, leading to reduced wages and benefits. They're intended to put more money in the pockets of billionaires and corporations while forcing working people to fight over the scraps that are left over. A better name for this would be "right-to-beg."

This legislative session was no different. But with the hard work of USW members, we once again defeated this attack on our rights. Although our members led the way in this fight, we could not have done it alone. Over the many years we have been under attack, we have built a strong coalition with other labor unions, community leaders, grassroots community organizations, and labor-friendly Republicans in both houses of the Legislature.

This is a clear example of why we say all elections have consequences. Since the first time he ran, the governor said he would gladly sign this bill if it ever reached his desk.

During this fall's election cycle, we will work to support all of those who support the working people of New Hampshire. Party affiliation will not matter. If they are on our side, we will do all we can to ensure their reelection.

I am proud to say that District 4 has no RTW states. This is only because of our members, who show up at rallies, write letters, make phone calls, and attend town hall meetings to protect our rights.

Thank you to everyone who takes time to join this fight.

In March, Steve Finnigan, Mike Fisher, and I presented a donation to the GoGo Foundation, which supports a pediatric health care clinic in Ponce, Puerto Rico. This clinic provides free medical attention to community members.

Over the past several years, we built a strong relationship with the foundation and the community. We look forward to growing our presence in Ponce and expanding our ability to help those who live there through community service and organizing.

Over the course of several months, we collected donations from across the District. We took these donations and were able to make a sizable contribution, enabling the clinic to build and finish its emergency room.

Our members' generosity is overwhelming. Time and time again, when people are in need, our USW family steps up to make a difference. The donated money will help save lives in a city devastated by hurricanes and earthquakes.

Thank you for helping make a difference.

SAVE THE DATE

DISTRICT 4 CONFERENCE
CAESARS ATLANTIC CITY
AUG. 5 – 9, 2024

WWW.DISTRICT4CONFERENCE.ORG

As I mentioned in our most recent newsletter, the District 4 Education Conference will be held in Atlantic City, N.J., the week of Aug. 5, 2024. We are excited to offer new classes this year in addition to our regular core classes.

One of the new classes, "Local Union Procedures," will include grievance handling, financial officer training and collective bargaining, among other subjects. What makes this class unique is that it will be taught entirely in Spanish!

This will be the first time that we have offered a class dedicated to our Spanish-speaking family. It's designed to function as a Union Officer 101 class for members whose first language is Spanish.

This class came about because of feedback we received at our 2023 conference and our commitment to constantly improving the training that we offer.

I look forward to seeing our members at all of the various training conferences being held this year. Please stay safe.

Solidarity forever.



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DAVID M. WASIURA
DISTRICT 4 DIRECTOR

SYRACUSE CARY ELDRIDGE SUB-DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Every year, the Syracuse Sub-District holds an LM Conference to allow our locals to work with our International auditors to make sure their LMs are filed properly. Thank you to all who attended this important event to ensure that all of our locals comply with federal reporting requirements.

We also held an educational session. This year's topics were Steelworker History and the Steelworker Trilogy. The class was well received, especially by our younger members who learned about the many sacrifices the union members who came before us made in order to solidify the future for so many. The battles the USW fought made a difference for all of organized labor.

At the LM Conference this year, the Onondaga County Veterans Service Agency set up a table to distribute information to our members. Thank you to Cindy Meili and Sharon Alleyne for their work to support all veterans and their families.

Thanks also to all who helped to make our Women of Steel 50/50 raffle a success. The raffle raised \$918. WOS gave the proceeds to Sleep in Heavenly Peace, an organization that builds beds for disadvantaged children.

We held a meeting on March 7 with Workforce Development Institute (WDI) and its field reps from around the Sub-District. WDI helps in many cases to offset the cost of trainings, a resource we may be able to use in many of our facilities.

We would like to thank Jim Valenti for decades of service to USW members and wish him a healthy and happy retirement.

For more information about the USW Veterans Council, contact Cary Eldridge, District 4 Veterans Committee Coordinator, at 315-468-1623.



Participants in the Syracuse Sub-District's LM Conference

Jamie Colucci, Janette Vander Baan and Ron Cady working the registration desk at the LM conference

Sharon Alleyne, veterans service officer, and Cindy Meili, assistant director of the Onondaga County Veterans Service Agency

WOS President Julie Searle with Deb Gerken and Dixon Roswell

EDISON MICHAEL L. FISHER, SUB-DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Spring brings new beginnings, new hope and new opportunities.

I would like to thank the financial officers and presidents of local unions who attended the LM training held at the Edison Sub-District Office in February. Meeting with the local union officers gave us insight into all that's occurring in their units.

Not surprisingly, many locals confront the same issues, such as aggressive attendance policies resulting from staffing needs and production requirements pushing change.

We closed ranks through a Building Power training with members of Local 219M and newly organized members at Ardagh Glass in Bridgeton, N.J. Jessica Rios Viner and Sharee Buell facilitated the training. Thanks to Staff Rep Matt McCarty for bringing the training together.

Speaking of new opportunities, it's great to have a newly chartered SOAR chapter added to the Sub-District. Thanks to Brother Howard Boyer and others for forming Chapter 4-23, which enables the Sub-District to leverage all of the

experiences and resources that SOAR members bring to the table. Their guidance on future efforts will be invaluable. Looking at the struggles ahead, we surely will need their help and participation.

The 18th annual Women in Leadership Development (WILD) conference, sponsored by the New Jersey State AFL-CIO, enabled us to showcase another of the union's strengths—our activists in the Women of Steel (WOS) program. Cecelia Gilligan Leto (Edison WOS chair and member of Local 4-397) attended the conference with Jessica Williams of Local 84721 and Amanda McNulty Stayton of Local 4-380.

The topics included "Women's Workplace Wellness" and "Labor's Role in Democracy." AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler (the first woman to hold that office) served as keynote speaker. Sister Williams described the conference as a "liberating and powerful experience" and added that she looks forward to attending the next one.



Members who took part in the recent Building Power training

Marking the formation of the Sub-District's new SOAR chapter were, from left, D4 Director Dave Wasiura, Local 4-417 President Carlos Mazzoni, Thomas Johnson, John Krieger, Kevin Dexheimer, Howard Boyer, Chris Abbott, Colleen Barnett, William Wilson and Asst. to the Director Steve Finnigan.

WOS Edison Chair Cecelia Gilligan Leto of Local 4-397 with AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler, Jessica Williams of Local 84721 and Amanda McNulty Stayton of Local 4-380.

MILFORD JOHN BUONOPANE, SUB-DISTRICT DIRECTOR

USW pushes for legislation to limit forced overtime in the Maine paper industry

District 4 staff representative John Perry recently met with a number of USW members and allies about LD 1794, an “act to enhance the predictability of mandated overtime in paper mills” in Maine.

John provided talking points to attendees so they could effectively educate their state representatives about this USW-led legislation. The bill would limit the amount of forced overtime, require 48-hour notice prior to forced overtime for known openings, and restrict a company from forcing someone to work during a pre-authorized vacation.

USW Local Union 513 runs Food Drive

Members of Local 513 in Chicopee, Mass., held their first-ever food and toiletry drive recently. The local union officers worked with the management of Greif to encourage members to donate nonperishable foods, toothpaste, soap, deodorant and other toiletries. During the monthlong campaign, Local 513 collected 415 pounds of donations, which were delivered to Lorraine’s Soup Kitchen & Pantry in Chicopee. We are very proud of our members.

New SOAR chapter chartered in Connecticut

Thank you to Tammie Botelho and Wanda Howard for helping to organize Connecticut’s first SOAR chapter. Congratulations!

USW attends Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Event

Various USW local unions and elected officials attended the Boston Coalition of Black Trade Unionists’ annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day brunch. King was one of the most significant supporters of the labor movement in history. His activism and sacrifices are honored each year during the event.

1. District 4 staff representative John Perry speaks to union members about forced overtime in the Maine paper industry.
2. Local 513 President Anthony Rooke and Recording Secretary Jacob Houle pack items for the food drive.
3. Tammie Botelho, president of new SOAR Chapter 4-21, with Assistant to the Director Steve Finnigan, staff representative Abdellatif El Berchoui, District Director Dave Wasiura, Sub-District Director John Buonopane, Local 12150 Grievance Committee member and SOAR activist Wanda Howard, and Local 00134L Business Agent Nick Pillis.
4. Participating in the MLK Day Brunch were, left, Local 8751 retiree Steve Kirschbaum, keynote speaker Tony Van Der Meer of UMass Boston, Local 8751 Recording Secretary Claude “Toutou” St. Germain, Local 8751 President André François, Ed Childs of UNITE HERE Local 26, Local 8751 member Celestin Couyoute and Jamie Wallace, president of CBTU-Boston and an IUPAT glazier.

BUFFALO JIM BRIGGS, SUB-DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Greetings from the Buffalo Sub-District. This has been a very trying time. As many of you know, we lost a member from Local 277 who worked at the WestRock facility. In addition, we have had numerous serious injuries at other facilities.

We must refocus on the safety of our members. Surely paychecks and benefits are important. But nothing is more essential than our members going home at the end of a work day in the same condition that they arrived in – uninjured.

With regard to contracts, we have had some very good success negotiating agreements that have met and exceeded the

expectations of our members.

We must highlight our successes and share these stories so that unorganized workers who live and work in our communities understand the value of our union. Let’s not forget that with union density comes union strength. And with that strength comes strong collective bargaining agreements.

As we head into the summer, I encourage you to take some time off, attend the District training courses that are being offered monthly, and be sure that you, your USW siblings, and your families stay safe!



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Han pasado un par de meses ocupados, desde la última entrega del Boletín del Distrito 4 de la USW.

Algunos legisladores anti-obreros y anti-sindicales en el estado de New Hampshire han presentado la legislación engañosamente llamada “Derecho al Trabajo” en cada sesión legislativa. Este tipo de leyes no garantizan nada. Todo lo que están diseñadas para hacer es restringir su poder en la mesa de negociaciones, lo que conduce a una reducción de salarios y beneficios. Ayuda a poner más dinero en los bolsillos de los multimillonarios y las corporaciones, al tiempo que obliga a los trabajadores a luchar por las migajas que quedan. Un mejor nombre para esto sería “Derecho a mendigar”.

Esta sesión legislativa no fue diferente, pero con el arduo trabajo de nuestros miembros, una vez más pudimos derrotar este ataque a sus derechos. Aunque nuestros miembros lideraron el camino en esta lucha, no podríamos haberlo hecho solos. A lo largo de los muchos años que hemos estado bajo ataque, hemos construido una fuerte coalición con otros sindicatos, líderes comunitarios, organizaciones comunitarias de base y republicanos favorables a los trabajadores en ambas cámaras de la legislatura.

Este es un claro ejemplo de por qué decimos que todas las elecciones tienen consecuencias. Desde la primera vez que se postuló, el Gobernador ha dicho que si este proyecto de ley llegara a su escritorio, lo firmaría con mucho gusto.

Este otoño, durante el ciclo electoral, trabajaremos para apoyar a TODOS aquellos que apoyaron a la gente trabajadora de New Hampshire. Su afiliación partidista no importará; si están de nuestro lado para derrotar esto, haremos todo lo posible para asegurar su reelección.

Me enorgullece decir que su Distrito 4 no tiene estados RTW. (“Right to Work”) Esto es solo gracias a nuestros miembros. Presentarse en mítines, escribir cartas, hacer llamadas telefónicas y asistir a reuniones públicas es la forma en que esto sucede. Gracias a todos los que se tomaron el tiempo para que esto sucediera.

En marzo, Steve Finnigan, Mike Fisher y yo hicimos una donación a la “Fundación Go GoGo”, una clínica de atención médica pediátrica en Ponce, Puerto Rico. Esta clínica

brinda atención médica a las personas que viven en la comunidad, sin costo alguno.

Durante los últimos años, hemos construido una sólida relación con la fundación y la comunidad. Buscamos aumentar nuestra presencia en Ponce y ampliar nuestra capacidad de ayudar a quienes viven en la ciudad a través del servicio comunitario y la organización.

En el transcurso de varios meses, recolectamos donaciones de todo el distrito. Tomamos estas contribuciones y pudimos hacer una donación considerable, lo que permitió que la clínica construyera y terminara su sala de emergencias.

Su generosidad es abrumadora. Una y otra vez, cuando la gente lo necesita, nuestra familia USW da un paso al frente para marcar la diferencia. El dinero donado se utilizará para ayudar a salvar vidas en una ciudad devastada por huracanes y terremotos. Gracias por ayudar a marcar la diferencia.

Como mencioné en nuestro último boletín, la Conferencia de Educación del Distrito 4 de la USW se llevará a cabo una vez más en Atlantic City, NJ, la semana del 5 de agosto de 2024. Estamos emocionados de ofrecer nuevas clases este año además de nuestras clases básicas regulares.

Una de las nuevas clases que ofreceremos es una “Clase de Procedimientos Sindicales Locales” que incluirá manejo de quejas, capacitación para funcionarios financieros y negociación colectiva, entre otros temas. ¡Lo que hace que esta clase sea única es que se impartirá completamente en español!

Esta será la primera vez que ofrezcamos una clase dedicada a nuestra familia de habla hispana. Esta clase tiene como objetivo ser una clase de Oficial Sindical 101 para miembros cuyo primer idioma es el español.

Esta clase surgió escuchando los comentarios que recibimos en nuestra última conferencia en 2023 y nuestro compromiso de mejorar constantemente la formación que ofrecemos.

Espero con interés ver a nuestros miembros en todas las conferencias de capacitación que se celebrarán este año. Por favor, manténgase a salvo.

Solidaridad por siempre.

GET INVOLVED