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NEWS FOR THE UNITED STEELWORKERS IN

# DISTRICT 4

## OUR UNITY IS THE SOURCE OF OUR STRENGTH

I hope everyone has been enjoying their summer so far. As I write this quarterly article, the United Steelworkers has concluded our 2024 Civil and Human Rights Conference in Detroit, Michigan.

Along with our Safety, Health, and Environment Conference, this is one of the most critical events of the year for the United Steelworkers. Far too often, forces outside our union try to divide the working class. We are one of few organizations with the want and ability to fight those forces. The Civil and Human Rights Conference emphasizes how much unity and solidarity are needed. It brings together members from across our international and labor leaders worldwide to have open and honest discussions and learn from each other's experiences. International Vice President Kevin Mapp and Civil and Human Rights Director Amanda Green-Hawkins held a conference that achieved those goals. We were also able to hear from our international executive officers.

We all come from different places and have different perspectives. Every one of us has faced challenges in our lifetime, and only when we come together and learn from each other's experiences can we find ways to serve each other for everyone's betterment. These learnings should not be confined to just race, but we must also be respectful of people's gender, ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation. This work is not easy or comfortable, but it is necessary because human rights and labor rights must be thought of as the same. Remember, those who set out to divide us use our differences. They don't understand that we are a family, and although we may have our

differences, we should always come together for the greater good of our union and the working class. President Kennedy once said, "A rising tide lifts all boats."

### SAVE THE DATE

DISTRICT 4 CONFERENCE  
CAESARS ATLANTIC CITY  
**AUG. 5 – 8, 2024**

[WWW.DISTRICT4CONFERENCE.ORG](http://WWW.DISTRICT4CONFERENCE.ORG)

No matter where you are from, how you worship, who you love, or the color of your skin, we all strive to return home from work the same way we went in, to provide for our families, and give our children a better life than we had. That is our common bond, which no outside force can defeat.

We will continue this work at the District 4 Education Conference, held the week of August 5th, 2024, in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Shortly after, the International will hold our Health, Safety, and Environment conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. These conferences will continue the themes of unity, family, and safety. I hope that as many members as possible can attend from your local.

This will not diminish our commitment to offering training throughout the year. Whether it is safety and health or stewards training, we can tailor it to the specific needs

of each local. Local union leadership should continue to work with staff so that we can address your needs.

Let us stand in solidarity with our striking members at Local 4-06129 against Silgan Container Manufacturing in Edison, New Jersey. These brave individuals have been on strike for many weeks for better wages and benefits and for their right to a safe and balanced work life. They have been working seven days a week since September 2023, and now the company wants to penalize them for taking a day off for their well-being. We will not rest until a fair and just solution is reached.

I hope you all enjoy the rest of your summer. Please remember to care for one another and stay safe at your workplace.

Solidarity Forever.



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**DAVID M. WASIURA**  
DISTRICT 4 DIRECTOR



# VETS OF STEEL

Veterans from around the U.S. came together on March 26 in Washington, D.C. to lobby for the Commitment to Veterans Support and Outreach Act (CVSO), HR 984. This act would ensure that County Veterans Service Officers have the funding to help veterans, service members and families navigate the complicated web of VA paperwork.

On May 22, Locals 12012 and 12003 Veterans of Steel, NextGen, and Women of Steel Committees volunteered at the Massachusetts Memorial Day Flag Garden in Boston. Organized by Home Base and Massachusetts Military Heroes Fund, the event was a tribute to fallen heroes, with 37,000 American flags planted, each representing a Massachusetts hero.

District 4 is also excited to host its 4th Veterans Council Meeting on July 11 at the Crowne Plaza – Desmond Hotel in Albany. This meeting is a platform for sharing insights and strategies to support veterans.



NextGen (N), Women of Steel (W), and Veterans of Steel (V) members from Locals 12003 and 12013 joined forces to place flags on Boston Common.



Local 12012 Vets of Steel – Left to Right: Tracy Gagliardi, Paige Gumbrecht, Andrew Cunniff (Local 12012 NextGen), and Paul Morency



## SAVE THE DATE SEPTEMBER 9

Our Annual Veterans Golf Tournament will be the Monday following Labor Day – September 09, 2024. This is an official USW event! Please plan on joining!



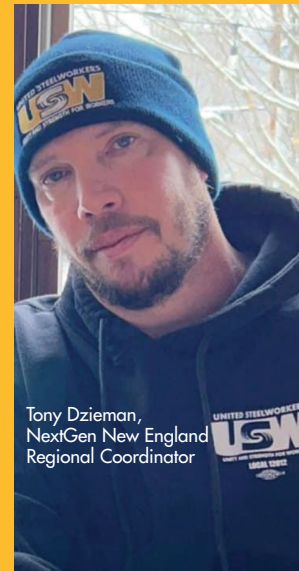
# RAPID RESPONSE

District 4 delegates participated in the Rapid Response, Legislative and Policy Conference this May in Washington, D.C. Rapid Response, a nonpartisan education and empowerment program, brings USW members together to bring our key issues into the halls of government.

Over 60 D4 members joined others from across the country for education and mobilization. Dozens of workshops were followed by hundreds of meetings with legislators and staff. Top issues included fortifying manufacturing, funding the NLRB, keeping health care workers and patients safe, and renewing Trade Adjustment Assistance.

# NEXT GEN

Welcome our new NextGen Regional Coordinator for the New England area, Brother Tony Dzeiman. Tony, a member of USW Local 12003 for eight years at National Grid, graduated from District 4's Level 3 NextGen training. In 2018, his local was involved in a seven-month lockout, which inspired him to become more involved. Since then, he and his union siblings jump-started their NextGen committee and organized several clothing and food drives in greater Boston. "The unity and strength the USW displays is immense," Tony said. "I feel very lucky to be a part of that." Keep up the great work, Tony!



Tony Dzeiman, NextGen New England Regional Coordinator



# WOMEN OF STEEL

Women of Steel  
Local 1000



Our WOS Committee partnered with NextGen and Rapid Response for the first Local 1000 Spring Craft Fair. Proceeds will be allocated to upcoming events, including the kids' Halloween and Christmas parties. Pictured are NextGen Chair Jamie Quick and WOS Chair Deanna Cavanaugh.

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF CINDY MARLOW A TRIBUTE TO A TRUE WOMAN OF STEEL

Cindy Marlow was a pillar of strength, a beacon of hope, and a true Woman of Steel. Her unwavering commitment to women's rights was an inspiration. She dedicated her life to equality, justice and empowerment for women, and her passion, courage, and resilience made a lasting impact on our community.

Let us remember Cindy as the advocate, friend, and indomitable spirit she was. Let us honor her memory by continuing her work. Let us also find solace in the memories we shared with Cindy and the knowledge that her legacy will live on.

We offer our deepest condolences to Cindy's family and loved ones. We want them to know that Cindy's Women of Steel family is always here for them. Rest in power, dear Cindy. Your light will shine in our hearts forever.



In honor of Mental Health Awareness Month, Local 1000 WOS held a Mental Health Awareness Day May 15. Participants wore green to combat the negative stigma associated with mental health and to promote self-care.



## HEALTH AND SAFETY

Congratulations to former Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) Coordinator Jim Valenti on his well-deserved retirement. As the new District 4 HSE Coordinator, I have big shoes to fill.

I'm Ken Gomeringer, a Staff Representative from the Edison, N.J., Sub-District office. I've been on staff about 10 years. Before that, I worked at a refinery in Delaware for 24 years. At the refinery, I held many local union positions, including 10 years as president. I was one of the local's full-time safety representatives before becoming a staff representative.

We started our District 4 health and safety training program earlier this year and will continue offering training sessions throughout 2024. Director Wasiura and I believe we should bring the training to members, not members to the training, so we will offer training at local union halls, companies and Sub-District offices. We are also available to offer additional safety training that locals or companies may need. To schedule training, contact your staff representative, and we will do our best to address members' needs.

We also are seeking members interested in becoming health and safety trainers. If you're interested, contact your staff representative.

## CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

District 4 Leadership remains a beacon of progressive training and support for local unions. At the Civil and Human Rights Conference this spring in Detroit, it was clear that the USW Civil and Human Rights Department is a wellspring of resources for locals. This conference was a testament to the USW's commitment to civil rights and member empowerment.

The USW stands out with its unique approach. The union champions a holistic view of work but also encourages members to bring their whole selves to their jobs. This inclusive ethos is the foundation of the USW, countering attempts to marginalize individuals or hinder their progress.

The call to action for unions is clear – to be a support system for all members and to ensure that every member feels valued, heard and aided. Our strength lies in our unity and the collective effort to uplift every member. Let's continue to foster an environment where every member can thrive.

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**NUESTRA UNIDAD ES LA FUENTE DE NUESTRA FUERZA**

Espero que todos hayan estado disfrutando de su verano hasta ahora. Mientras escribo este artículo trimestral, la United Steelworkers ha concluido nuestra Conferencia de Derechos Civiles y Humanos de 2024, que se celebró en Detroit, Michigan.

Junto con nuestra Conferencia sobre Seguridad, Salud y Medio Ambiente, esta es una de las semanas más importantes del año calendario para la United Steelworkers. Con demasiada frecuencia, hay fuerzas fuera de nuestro sindicato que intentan dividir a la clase trabajadora. Somos una de las pocas organizaciones que tiene el deseo y la capacidad de luchar contra esas fuerzas. Esta semana enfatiza cuánta unidad y solidaridad se necesitan. Reúne a miembros de toda nuestra comunidad internacional junto con líderes sindicales de todo el mundo para poder tener debates abiertos y honestos y aprender de las experiencias de los demás. El vicepresidente internacional Kevin Mapp y la directora de Derechos Civiles y Humanos Amanda Green-Hawkins organizaron una conferencia que logró esos objetivos. También pudimos escuchar a nuestros directores ejecutivos internacionales.

Todos venimos de diferentes lugares y tenemos diferentes perspectivas. Todos y cada uno de nosotros hemos enfrentado desafíos a lo largo de nuestra vida, y sólo cuando nos unimos y aprendemos de las experiencias de los demás podemos encontrar maneras de servir unos a otros para el mejoramiento de todos. Estos aprendizajes no deben limitarse sólo a la raza, sino que también debemos ser respetuosos del género, la etnia, la religión y la orientación sexual de las personas. Este trabajo no es fácil ni cómodo, pero es necesario porque los derechos humanos son derechos laborales, y los derechos laborales son derechos humanos y deben considerarse como uno solo. Recuerde, aquellos que se propusieron dividirnos, utilizan nuestras diferencias para hacerlo. Lo que no entienden es que somos una familia y, aunque tengamos nuestras diferencias, siempre debemos unimos por el bien de nuestra Unión y de la clase trabajadora. Como dijo una vez el presidente Kennedy: "Una marea creciente levanta todos los barcos".

No importa de dónde seas, no importa cómo adoras, no importa a quién ames o no importa el color de tu piel, todos nos esforzamos por regresar a casa del trabajo de la misma manera en que entramos, para mantener a nuestras familias y dar a nuestros hijos una vida mejor que la nuestra. Ése es nuestro vínculo común, que ninguna fuerza externa puede derrotar.

Continuaremos este trabajo en la Conferencia de Educación del Distrito 4, que se llevará a cabo la semana del 5 de agosto de 2024, en Atlantic City, Nueva Jersey. Poco después, la International celebrará nuestra conferencia sobre Salud, Seguridad y Medio Ambiente en Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Ambas conferencias continuarán con los temas de unidad, familia y seguridad. Si su local puede, espero que puedan asistir tantos miembros como sea posible.

Esto no nos quitará el compromiso de seguir ofreciendo formación durante todo el año. Ya sea seguridad y salud o capacitación de delegados, podemos adaptarlo a las necesidades específicas de cada local. Los líderes del sindicato local deben continuar trabajando con el personal para que podamos abordar sus necesidades.

Por favor, mantengan en sus pensamientos a nuestros miembros en huelga de la Local 4-06129 contra Silgan Container Manufacturing en Edison, Nueva Jersey, que han estado en huelga durante muchas semanas. Estos valientes miembros se enfrentan a Silgan no principalmente por salarios y beneficios, sino por cantidades inseguras de horas extras forzadas. Estos miembros se ven obligados a trabajar los siete días de la semana desde septiembre de 2023, y ahora la Compañía quiere castigarlos si tienen que tomarse un día libre por su propio bienestar. Continuaremos esta lucha hasta que se alcance una solución aceptable.

Espero que todos disfruten el resto de su verano. Recuerden cuidarse unos a otros y mantenerse lo más seguros posible en su lugar de trabajo.

Solidaridad para Siempre.

**GET INVOLVED**