

Volume 9/Issue 2
Fall 2023

Covering the news of the United Steelworkers in District 11

USW REPORTER

LOCAL 1955 AT CLIFFS NORTHSHORE

Respecting the Past Fighting for the Future

In 1955, Reserve Mining Company opened the Northshore Mine, the first of the six original taconite mines that remain operating in Northern Minnesota.

After members chose to organize with the USW, our Cliffs Northshore bargaining committee selected "Local 1955" because, after all, what could be more fitting than the year the mine opened?

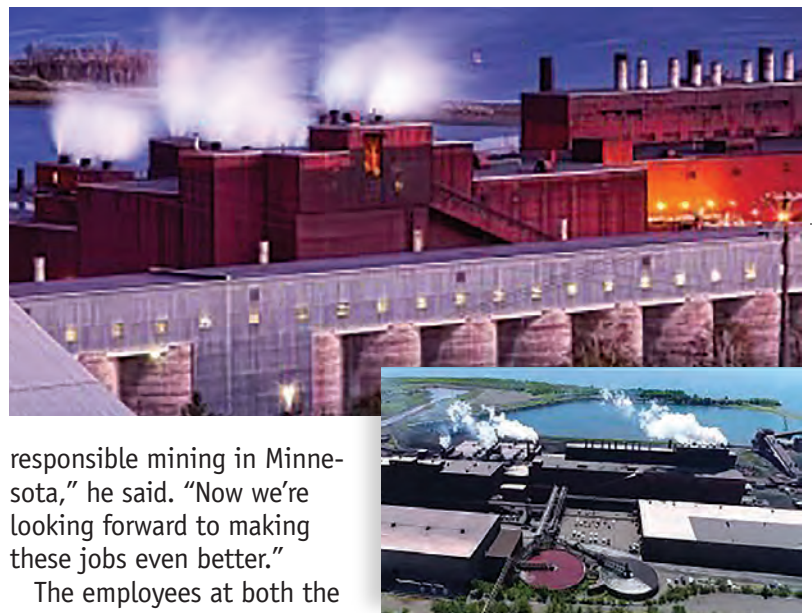
In September of 2023, approximately 400 members of Local 1955 at Northshore mine ratified their first, three-year contract with Cleveland Cliffs.

After many years of operating without a union, the workers in Babbitt and Silver Bay chose USW representation.

"We chose to unionize so that we can have a voice on the job, especially when it comes to workplace health and safety, retirement security and other critical issues that

affect us every day," said Jason Curtis, who works as a maintenance technician in the operation's concentrator.

"We're proud of our work and of our part in the long legacy of



responsible mining in Minnesota," he said. "Now we're looking forward to making these jobs even better."

The employees at both the pit and plant recognized that it was time to join a strong union with everyone receiving a voice on pay, benefits and better working conditions.

With a new contract in place, the membership recently elected its first executive board, including Dan Muhvich as the first-ever president of USW Local 1955.

Muhvich has already begun the hard work of developing the grievance, safety and other committees that are required to maintain a strong local union.

He has hit the ground running and has a unique task of promoting the solidarity needed to unify a membership that, unlike the other five taconite mines, has a pit and a plant that are more than 60 miles apart.

The local has scheduled trainings for new financial and other elected officers, and the search for a union hall is underway.



THE DIRECTOR'S DESK Cathy Drummond, District 11 Director

Changes Prompt New Leaders to Emerge from USW District 11

In the wake of United Steelworkers (USW) International President Tom Conway's passing on Sept. 25, 2023, our union's leadership has entrusted important new responsibilities to several of us in District 11, myself included.

On Oct. 13, 2023, the (USW) International Executive Board selected District 11 Director Emil Ramirez as the union's new International Vice President (Administration) to fill the position most recently held by USW International President David McCall, sworn into office on Sept. 26, 2023.

At that time, I also took the oath of office to be your new District 11 Director. While I feel honored as the first woman to serve as a USW District Director, I am even more enthusiastic about the great work our members are doing to make a positive impact in their communities.

Jeff Hartford will serve as Assistant to the Director in District 11, filling the position I have held since 2019. We look forward to facing the challenges ahead together with your support and continued solidarity.

From organizing new workers into our union to bargaining more leading-edge contracts and working with pro-worker officials to create good-paying union jobs, we truly have a number of exciting opportunities on the horizon.

I look forward to working with all of you as we capitalize on this momentum.

Before concluding, I want to thank Emil Ramirez for his leadership, mentorship and dedication, which have helped inspire my own leadership journey.

Since he took office as Director in 2014, we can be proud that USW members in District 11 have been at the center of many of our union's most significant efforts.

He currently leads the USW's bargaining with Cleveland-Cliffs Mining, Ardagh Beverage, Rexam Beverage Can and ContiTech and serves as chair of the USW's Cement Council and Arconic Bargaining Committee, as well as secretary of the union's Container Industry Conference.

Emil began his union career as a Pipefitter B in 1986 with USW Local 15162 at KPL/Gas Service's Topeka, Kan., facility. He served in a number of leadership roles, including local union president, until he was appointed to the USW staff in 1995.

USW District 11 extends its best wishes to Vice President Ramirez for a successful transition to his new role and pledges to continue the tremendous work he started here.

Our union's strength has always stemmed from our unity and ability to work together to ensure safer workplaces and a better standard of living for all working families.

As our union continues to grow and evolve, I am honored to serve its membership so that together we can maintain this strength through solidarity.

Newly appointed Health Care Workers Council Coordinator

DaLaine Treitline, the newly named USW District 11 Coordinator to the International Health Care Workers Council, joined the Health Care Workers Council about a year ago and has completed two years of leadership training at the union's Rutgers Institute.

Although Treitline started working as a CNA at Northome Health Care Center in 1992, she joined the USW in 2011 when she moved to Thief River Falls, Minn., transferring to the Sanford clinic there after earning an LPN.

Since moving to Thief River Falls, she's spent time in every department. Treitline has served primarily as an LPN Lead in outreach services for the past ten years, working with roughly 15 specialty doctors that come from Fargo and Bemidji.

She became a steward of USW Local 9349-14 in 2018 and took over as Unit President in 2022.

She serves on the safety committee and on the bargaining team.



EDUCATING FOR OUR FUTURE



This year, 110 local union officers, committee members and activists from Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota and Wyoming, along with 20 instructors and presenters, attended and participated in the 14th annual Charley Richardson Fall Educational Institute at Ruttgers Bay Lake Lodge in Deerwood, Minn., from Sept. 10-15.

The institute consists of courses designed to build skills and educate USW officers and activists over a four-year period. The general session topics covered presentations about

USW programs which support our members and their families.

First-year courses included: USW and labor history; basic contract administration and grievance handling; and communications and public speaking.

Second-year participants took classes that covered: mobilizing around safety and health to build local unions; confronting workplace change; and effective communications and continuous bargaining.

Third-year courses featured: the USW Constitution and local union by-laws; the duties of local union

officers; FMLA/NLRB information; and Building Power and research methods for bargaining.

Fourth-year students focused on: the arbitration process and studied, trained and presented an actual case. The students presented their case in a mock hearing with their instructor, in front of all students during the Friday closing session.

The participation of the locals this year was record breaking! We are excited for next year. Watch for the call letter and registration form, which will be mailed to your local union president and recording secretary in May of 2024.



Rapid Response UPDATE

This summer Rapid Response has taken on some big issues at both the federal and state levels.

We had Info Alerts and Action Calls on several things that impact us: Protecting American Jobs in the Ship Building Industry, Safe Staffing in our Long Term Care Facilities and the threat of a Government Shutdown.

In Montana we helped our Brothers and Sisters of Local 11-00001 at the East Boulder Mine with an Action Call to get the permit for an expanded tailings basin and waste rock storage area that will keep the Mine operating through at least 2043.

We also did trainings at our summer and fall educational institutes where 1st year members are given an overview of how Rapid Response works and why it is so important to be involved in our program. The Rapid Response Coordinator's duties include training and educating our members on the issues that impact us at our work place, our retirement security and more, but the program only works when our members are active and engaged.

If your local would like a training to be set up, please reach out to Bob Ryan, District 11 Rapid Response Coordinator.

UNITED STEELWORKERS
Rapid Response
EDUCATING • EMPOWERING • ENGAGING



Happy Birthday America!

Victoria (4) and Stella (3) Walsey representing USW Local 11-63 in Cloquet, Minn. for Independence Day 2023.



Next Generation Volunteers Find Opportunities to Serve Community

While the players and their parents prepared for this year's homecoming game, USW Local 13214 members Aaron Sheldon, Michael Rodabaugh, Earon Hudson and Marshal Cummings hurried to the stadium to grill hamburgers and hot dogs for the hungry Green River Wolves football team.

USW 13214 Next Generation volunteers ran the grill and served the team dinner for Homecoming 2023 at Green River High School.

Cummings said that parents were able to enjoy spending time with the student athletes instead of cooking, serving and cleaning up the meal.

"It was great to tend the grill and allow these parents in the GR booster club to spend some time with their kids," he said. "These parents who donate so much time and energy deserve more credit than they receive."

The team had a great night—especially the seniors celebrating their last homecoming game.

USW Next Generation provides opportunities for younger Steelworkers to learn and develop leadership skills while giving them an outlet to make a difference in their communities.

Vince Albrecht is leading the charge for Next Generation at USW Local 13214, and he plans to make sure they can be positive role models in the community for the long-term future.

"We needed more young people involved, and I felt it was important to teach the younger people the ins and outs of being in a union," Albrecht said. "Before long, we will be the ones bargaining our contracts, fighting for our coworkers and serving our communities."

At their next meeting, the members of USW Local 13214 voted to donate to the Green River Football Booster Club.

"I hope when they see the USW logo around town, they know we are trying to make the community better every day," Albrecht said. "We support them, and we hope we can earn their support too."

Albrecht said that the USW takes pride in this corner of Southwest Wyoming and will continue to be a pillar in the community for many years to come.

"Through donations and volunteer work, we intend to make an impact on this community and be much more than a force for labor," he said. "We live here, so we want to make it a better place."



Today and Every Day, We Are Grateful

As we celebrate Veterans Day 2023, we take time to remember our brothers and sisters who have made the decision to sign on the dotted line and, in many instances, put themselves in harm's way for the sake of our country and our ideals.

Many veterans can look back on their service and smile, and enjoy the fond memories. Unfortunately, there are also many who cannot because the pain is too real and the memories burn.

Whether from dealing with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, the memories of friends lost, permanent injuries, or family strife related to military service; there are times that it can be too much to bear.

We ask everyone in District 11 to please keep all veterans in your thoughts. As an additional step for those who want to say, "Thank you for your service," this Veterans Day, we encourage you to ask if there is anything else you can do, whether for the person in front of you or for veterans in general.

A small gesture means a lot, and while most will be doing just fine, there may be someone who is just waiting for someone to reach out or maybe needs someone to listen. It will certainly be appreciated.

To all of our veterans in USW District 11, we wish you all a very Happy Veterans Day.





USW Local 560 and Dropkick Murphys Prove **SOLIDARITY ROCKS**

USW Local 560's Dan Jackson and his daughter, Swaye, were so excited to see the Dropkick Murphys that they bought tickets for the Oct. 14 show in Fargo as soon as they went on sale—months ago.

"She likes to sit at concerts, but I like to be in the pit," Jackson, a 20-year member from Bobcat's Gwinner, N.D., plant said. "We were both really enthused."

As time went on and the Local 560 Solidarity Committee brainstormed ideas for future events, they had the idea to host a booth at this upcoming concert, since the Dropkick Murphys are known to support labor unions and workers.

At the September Northern Plains United Labor Council meeting, Jackson raised the issue under new business that the council should host an event or booth at the concert. The labor council agreed, so Jackson raised the issue at next North Dakota AFL-CIO Executive Council meeting.

With the backing of the state federation and Field Director Andrew Bushaw's assistance, they moved forward in agreement that the North Dakota AFL-CIO should host an event



President Mark Froemke, of the West Area Labor Council introducing Dropkick Murphys at the IBEW Labor hall in Fargo, ND.

similar to the Ohio AFL-CIO's "Labor Night Out with The Dropkick Murphys."

Jackson said that Bushaw coordinated with the band to set up discounted tickets, entry into sound-check and a meet-and-greet event.

"Then it transformed into the band coming to the IBEW union hall for the meet and greet," Jackson said. "The labor council cooked food, and everyone had a great time!"

USW Local 560 Next Generation members James and Aaron Fuchs

stepped up to help plan and make our day with the Dropkick Murphys a huge success—both brothers came early to prepare and decorate the IBEW hall.

The band spent time visiting with workers at the hall, enjoyed a meal, signed autographs and took photos.

West Area Labor Council (Minnesota) President Mark Froemke and lead singer Ken Casey both addressed the crowd, and then everyone headed to the show at Scheel's Arena in Fargo.



Event attendees with Dropkick Murphys on stage behind them.



DISTRICT 11 is BACK TOGETHER

First Conference Post COVID



The twelfth USW District 11 conference was held at the Northern Hotel in Billings, Montana, from July 30 to August 2, 2023. The conference was well attended with 155 delegates and observers. Over the course of the three-and-a-half days, we had 35 speakers and guests discuss a wide variety of issues pertaining to the union and our delegates.

In the afternoon of the first day, the delegates and staff were given an overview of the upcoming local union elections that will take place in the spring of 2024. This was followed by several speakers from USW leadership.

Now-President David McCall, along with District 1 Director Donnie Blatt, District 3 Director Scott Lunny, District 4 Director Dave Wasiura, and District 12 Director Gaylan Prescott all gave reports.

The second day was also filled with numerous speakers and discussions. We discussed legal issues concerning marijuana in the workplace as well as national legislative issues we face as a union. The delegates also received an update on National Oil Bargaining from Mike J. Smith, who chairs those negotiations, along with an update on the rubber and plastics industry from Kevin Johnsen, who chairs the bargaining in that sector.

USW International Vice President (Human Affairs) Kevin Mapp spoke to the delegation, as did Claude Beaudin, who is the Chairman of the GMP and gave an update on the glass industry. In the afternoon, the delegates were offered workshops to attend on the following subjects: Building Power, Labor Law, Health and Safety, Pressuring

Management through Effective Solidarity Activities, and Hard Bargaining.

The second day was wrapped up with USW National Director of Rapid Response Amber Miller and District 11 Rapid Response Coordinator Bob Ryan with a discussion on using Rapid Response effectively in our local unions.

On the final day, the delegation received information from the USW education and membership development department on educational opportunities within our union from technician Pam Cantolina.

District 11 staff representative Travis Lohmann had discussions on the new constitutionally mandated 'Veterans of Steel' committee and the work needed to be successful. Finally, USW Legislative Director Roy Houseman gave the delegation an update on trade.

The delegation received reports about Women of Steel and District 11 education, followed by completing work on resolutions that needed to be debated. Then, the delegation held the election of the welfare and education fund committee.

With no further business before them, the delegates finally adjourned the twelfth District 11 Conference.





KNOW YOUR POWER!

“Know Your Power” was the theme of the 9th USW District 11 Women’s Conference in Billings, Mt., held July 27-29, 2023.

It was a powerful two days spent learning, mentoring, volunteering and networking amongst our 53 delegates and 16 staff/facilitators/presenters.

USW Vice President at Large Roxanne Brown gave the keynote address, introduced by USW Local 2660 Vice President Tawnya Gustafson, the first woman ever to be elected vice president at an Iron Range taconite mine.

“The keynote speaker always gets this nice introduction, but the introducer never gets props,” Brown said. “It’s such a great honor to have been introduced by the Mama Bear of Keetac.”

Brown encouraged the siblings in the room to know and use their power and challenged delegates to “show up as yourself” in every room.

That means to be authentically you, and all that comes with you—particularly as it relates to the collective fights we face as a union.

We cannot be ashamed to stand for good jobs that allow us to put food on the table, send our kids to school and retire with dignity. We are proud to fight for quality, affordable health care and safer workplaces.

“These are the things that you’re using those powers for and that you show up as yourself in every room,” Brown said.

Brown reminded attendees to use their power wisely. This reminder was to instill how important it is for our girls—big and small—to see us doing powerful things and that it is important for women to see each other doing powerful things.

This conference included some very difficult conversations that we needed to have in this union and finding solutions together to make a better USW for all of us.

USW District 1 Assistant to the Director and Womens Coordinator Teresa Cassady gave a presentation during Friday’s plenary session on “Surviving Domestic Violence.”

While we recognize all the achievements and positions that we all hold within the USW as females, there are also personal stories that most of us never share. It takes a tremendous amount of courage and strength to share our personal stories.

Through the Women’s Program Raising the Bar initiative, we are leading this fight to make sure our members in these situations have the protections they need in their contracts and communities.



The Conference Included Four Educational and Informative Workshops

- ▶ **The USW’s Emergency Response Team’s Involvement with Mental Health** gave insight into the department’s 15 years of experiences with assisting our members with trauma and mental health concerns.
- ▶ **You Fight Like a Woman: Organizing for Power in Our Workplaces** focused on our workplaces and how very often they are tailored to our brothers. The workshop provided tools to address these problems through internal organizing, power-mapping your workplace, identifying key issues that are widely held and deeply felt, and creating a plan to win.
- ▶ **Woman’s Work is Never Done... (but often paid less or not at all!)** shed a much-needed light on the inequalities in many work environments.
- ▶ **Sexual Exploitation: Learning How to Identify, Report and Fight Human Trafficking in Montana** showed that this can be occurring right in your own back yard!

Our community service project was arranged with Billings Parks and Recreation at Riverfront Park. All the delegates, along with many spouses and staff, volunteered on two projects.

Some were painting the bridge that crosses the lake in the middle of the park and others went on the hiking trails to remove the invasive species, Buckthorn.

It was a great time, and the park was very appreciative since we were the first group of volunteers from out-of-state.

Keep an eye on the USW District 11 Facebook page for information on our next Women’s Conference to be scheduled in 2025!

District 11
REPORTER

Volume 9/Issue 2 Fall 2023

Official Publication of District 11 United Steelworkers. Published four times a year and inserted in **USW@Work**.

Cathy Drummond, Director
Jeff Hartford, Assistant to the Director
Karen Stockton, Executive Administrative Assistant



3433 Broadway Street NE, Suite 315
Minneapolis, MN 55413
Phone612-623-8045
Fax.....612-331-4266

Sub-District 1 Office

3433 Broadway Street NE, Suite 315
Minneapolis, MN 55413
Phone612-623-8003
Fax612-331-4266

Staff: Brian Ecker, Travis Lohmann, Robert Ryan, Justin Recla, Tom Ricker, Joyce Russotto, Liza DeCoursey

Sub-District 2 Office

3675 South Noland Road, Suite 310
Independence, MO 64055
Phone.....816-836-1400
Fax816-836-0312

Staff: David Rizzuto, Greg Tate Jr., Robert Tripp, Rob Haynes, Stacey Andersen, Terri Pierce

Staff Office

415 Jones Street
Eveleth, MN 55734
Phone.....218-744-2757
Fax218-744-7926

Staff: John Arbogast, John Kesler, Michael Woods, Michele Fredrickson, Will Wilkinson, Tiffany Olson

Staff Office

3307A Hollenberg Drive
Bridgeton, MO 63044
Phone.....314-209-0613
Fax314-209-0662

Staff: Cameron Redd, Ronald J. Wilkey, Ruth Cooley

Send comments and suggested articles to:
D11news@usw.org



© Copyright 2023 by District 11 United Steelworkers, AFL-CIO-CLC. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the written consent of District 11.



“Everybody can be great... because anybody can serve.” MLK, Jr.

On August 12 members of the Civil and Human Rights committee of Local 105 (Arconic–Bettendorf, IA) volunteered at a school supply drive. The location of the event was Celebrity Styles in Davenport. The committee raised money at charity bingo events held at the hall and were able to donate over 300 backpacks to the event.

Pictured above are: Chelsea Johnson, Deena Tyson, Roy Hutt and Tonya Clark.

Let’s Hear from YOU!

USW@Work is published two times a year and we need the submissions for the Spring 2024 issue by April 4, 2024. Please submit them to **D11news@usw.org**.

Also include a telephone number or active e-mail address in case we need additional information. We will try to include all submissions and we reserve the right to edit information in order to fit the allocated space.

GET INVOLVED

CIVIL RIGHTS

David Rizzuto
USW District 11 Civil and Human Rights Coordinator
816-836-1400 phone
816-836-0312 fax
515-490-1277 cell
drizzuto@usw.org

3433 Broadway Street NE
Suite 315
Minneapolis, MN 55413
612-623-8003 office
612-331-4266 fax
ryan@usw.org



SOAR

Bonnie Carey
USW District 11 SOAR Coordinator
Bettendorf, IA 52722
309-721-7908 cell
bonnie.carey@gmail.com

EDUCATION COORDINATORS

Brian Ecker
becker@usw.org
Ron Wilkey
rwilkey@usw.org

VETERANS OF STEEL

Travis Lohmann
USW District 11
651-338-0047
tlohmann@usw.org

NEXT GENERATION

For information on Next Generation, please contact the District 11 office at 612-623-8045.

ORGANIZING

For information on Organizing, please contact the District 11 office at 612-623-8045.

RAPID RESPONSE

Bob Ryan
USW District 11 Rapid Response Coordinator

WOMEN OF STEEL

Michele Fredrickson
USW District 11 Women of Steel Coordinator
415 Jones Street
Eveleth, MN 55734
218-744-2757 office
218-744-7926 fax
mfredrickson@usw.org



WOS COUNCIL COORDINATORS

Christina Lehman—Iowa
125 NE Broadway Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50313
515-201-6134
local310wos@outlook.com

Misty Samples—MOKAN WOS
116 West Smith
PO Box 251
Hesston, KS 67062
316-253-2782
womenofsteeluswlocal11228@gmail.com

Marketa Anderson—WIMN-KOTA
502 SW 8th Avenue
Chisholm, MN 55719
218-403-0219
m_manderson@msn.com

Tina Fife—WY/MT
PO Box 553
Lyman, WY 82937
307-747-4672
tfife78@gmail.com