

Volume 10/Issue 1  
Summer 2024

Covering the news of the United Steelworkers in District 11

# USW REPORTER



## USW Next Generation Conference

Young workers from all over District 11 participated in the 2024 USW Next Generation Conference in Pittsburgh from March 3-8.

The conference was filled with great panels, workshops and community good works. The strong, positive energy in the opening sessions set the tone for the conference.

We had panels with USW International Executive Board, who answered questions from the young workers in our union. We had other panels around organizing and bargaining power and a panel that featured Marshal Cummings from Local 13214 and District 11 Next Generation Coordinator Will Wilkinson in a discussion about representation around grievance handling and safety.

The conference featured a variety of workshops. Classes ranged from grievance handling to community service and everything in between to give our young members the tools and foundation they need to become lifetime activists.

Next Generation members came together from all districts for education and motivation, taking their new skills and knowledge back home to their locals. We have already seen the impact since the conference. Members are already planning actions at their locals for their unions and communities.

Next Generation programs are helping their bargaining committees, doing peer support and having



solidarity building events with other local unions.

USW District 11 Director Cathy Drummond has prioritized continued growth for the Next Generation program in the district.

Throughout 2024, we will be introducing regional coordinators to help locals implement and build the Next Generation program throughout our district.



Staff Representative Will Wilkinson and Marshal Cummings from local 13214 sat on a panel about representation. They spoke about safety and grievance handling.





**THE DIRECTOR'S DESK** Cathy Drummond, District 11 Director

# Hitting the Ground in 2024

## Education and Engagement

Heading into the second half of 2024 will be busier than ever in District 11. First off, congratulations to all the newly elected local union officers, and thank you to all the union leaders, past and present, for working so diligently on behalf of USW members.

Both at the bargaining table and on the job at work, strong local leadership is essential to protecting union members. Whether it's through the grievance and arbitration process or lobbying for better policies on a state and federal level, education is the key to our success.

## Upcoming Opportunities

USW District 11 financial officer training has been scheduled for August in four different locations. Keep an eye on the website for information on a virtual training for all newly elected recording secretaries that is being scheduled during Fall 2024.

We remain committed to providing educational opportunities at every level on a variety of subjects. From new steward training to weeklong educational institutes, USW District 11 is working to give your local everything it needs for success.

Each year we have scheduled the District Collective Bargaining Conference, District 11 Jerry Johnson Educational Institute-MINK and District 11 Charley Richardson Educational Institute at Ruttgers.

More information on these educational opportunities can be found in this edition. Check out our district website for the calendar of upcoming events.

Please let us know if there are any additional educational requests by calling the District 11 office at **612-623-8045**.

## Your Union, Your Voice

Over the past several months, thousands of USW members in District 11 participated in Your Union Your Voice town hall meetings to discuss their top priorities and learn about important wins for workers.

Members attended more than 20 meetings across District 11, including three, district-wide "virtual town hall" meetings on May 8, where a diverse cross-section of USW members talked openly about the political issues that impact them the most.



For more information about our core issues, worker-friendly legislation we helped get passed, what we expect from candidates and more, please visit [uswvoices.org](http://uswvoices.org).

In closing, may you and your families have a wonderful and safe summer. We know we have many fights in front of us but remember that we are stronger together!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 2024

#### Financial Officer Trainings

August 5-6  
Minneapolis, MN

August 8-9  
Des Moines, IA

August 12-13  
Columbia, MO

August 15-16  
Riverside, MO

#### Charley Richardson Fall Educational Institute

September 8-13

### 2025

#### Collective Bargaining Conference

March 2-6

#### MINK Educational Institute

June 1-6



# Iron Range Veterans in the Community

The Iron Range Veterans of Steel group, consisting of members from the 5 Iron Range Taconite Mines, have been very active in their Northern Minnesota communities. The group collected winter coats and donated them to students who were in need.

In October of 2023, they held their first bingo event that raised nearly \$8,000. The proceeds from the bingo were presented to the Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank and the Silver Bay Veterans Home.

In April 2024 the group hosted a second bingo night to raise more money for their charitable causes. Along with these bingos they also had a gun raffle. In April, the vets joined 750 other veterans to march on the capital in St. Paul, MN.

In May, the Vets of Steel spent the day at the Silver Bay Veterans Home.



Not only did they spend the day working in the yards, they also donated \$800 in landscaping supplies and handed the home a check for \$1,000 to continue the hard work they do for the veterans that call this beautiful facility home.

Their final event as of this writing, was a donation of \$5,000 to the

Veterans on the Lake Resort. Their donation will be used for many needed improvements at the resort. This selfless group is working hard for all the veterans in their local area and will continue to press on.



## VETERANS OF STEEL REPORT

**As we transition into the months of summer, many of us look forward to vacations and time with family doing what we love. This time of year also brings two very important days for all Americans, and even more for our brothers and sisters in arms.**

June 6, 2024 marks the 80th anniversary of the storming of Omaha Beach in Normandy, France, by so many brave and selfless young men.

The fear and terror that must have been so present in their young minds, overcome by a sense of duty and an unconditional stewardship for freedom, is something that should not and cannot ever be understated or forgotten.

Bright futures cancelled, families torn apart by grief, and so many mothers who watched as their sons left in crisp military uniforms, only to return home under an American flag, or laid to rest for eternity in a far-off land. Let us never forget them.

Memorial Day every year brings a sense of pause to all of us who signed

our names on the dotted line to commit to "do whatever needs to be done" in the defense of our great country in the fight against tyranny.

While there is no American force preparing for an Omaha Beach landing, tyranny continues to exist in this world, and we know, as the protectors of freedom, that our young people in uniform could be called to "do what must be done."

Enjoy the summer and your time with family, but always remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, a gift that can never really be reciprocated.

Remember those who laid down their lives for all of us, so that we may live a life of freedom and happiness.





## Provides Workshops for Local Leaders and Activists

From June 2-7, 2024, in Lake Ozark, Mo., the USW hosted its Jerry Johnson Summer Educational Institute, also known as MINK (for Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas) at the Lodge of the Four Seasons.

About 140 union members from the four states participated in training sessions that included USW Labor History, Grievance Handling, Building Rapid Response, Communications/ Public Speaking, Safety and Health, Civil and Human Rights, FMLA, Local Union Officer Duties and Responsibilities, Legal and NLRB Updates and Research Methods.

USW District 11 Director Cathy Drummond also gave an overview of news within the district to all in attendance. Members received updates on Rapid Response, Women of Steel, ERT and Next Generation. We also held a Your Union Your Voice town hall meeting on June 5th.

The week-long training ended with fourth-year MINK students participating in a mock arbitration. Some played the role of management advocates while others assumed the role of the union advocates.

Of course, in the end, **THE UNION WON!**

Thanks to all members who attended and a special thanks to all the instructors who participated.

## 2024 USW District 11 Bargaining Conference

The 2024 USW District 11 Collective Bargaining Conference took place from April 22-24 in Riverside, Missouri.

This year's conference hosted 62 delegates from local unions throughout District 11, and they were provided the tools necessary to conduct local contract bargaining in the upcoming year.

The curriculum included courses in collective bargaining law and bargaining committee team training, as well as workshops on health and retirement benefits, research methods and an overview of "Building Power" for negotiation preparations.

The three-day conference concluded with the delegates participating in a mock negotiation.



# Rapid Response Conference 2024

## From May 19-23, 2024 the USW held its Rapid Response and Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., at the Hyatt on Capitol Hill.

District 11 had 72 members and staff in attendance, along with nearly 700 other participants ready for three days of workshops and our “Day on The Hill.”

Members had the opportunity to attend workshops on a variety of subjects including: The Role of State and Local Laws in Promoting Workers’ Rights; Building a Foundation; Rapid Response Basics; Major Policy Updates in Health Care: Wages; Staffing, Workplace Safety, and More; Your Voice. Your Vote. They Matter.; Funding Frenzy! Navigating Federal Appropriations, Building Power Through Legislation and Regulation; Under the Radar—Executive Branch Actions Advancing Our Core Issues; Sharing Our Stories to Impact Legislation and Policy; Representation Matters: Women’s Influence in Policy and Governance; How to Research Your Legislators; Legislating for Safe Workplaces; and Lobbying 101.

Sunday was registration day, followed by a welcome reception in the evening. Monday morning was the opening of the conference by USW Rapid Response Director Amber Miller, followed by International President Dave McCall as our first keynote speaker followed by International Vice President Roxanne Brown. Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear was then presented with one of two Wellstone Awards. The afternoon was full of workshops and a general session with panelists discussing one of our priorities: Fully Fund The NLRB.

Tuesday’s general session kicked off with Livia Shmavonian, the Made in America Director from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), about how our hard work helped with

the Infrastructure Bill to include American-made products.

United States Trade Representative Katherine Tai addressed the Biden administration’s ongoing work to stop illegal trade and the tools used for enforcement. Roy Houseman of the USW then led a panel discussion

Wednesday was lobby day or “our day on the hill.” With 50 U.S. Representatives and Senators from District 11, we were able to secure meetings with 24 of them (or their staff) and dropped off packets with the offices of those we were unable to meet with.



on fortifying U.S. manufacturing with Sen. Robert Casey (PA) and Rep. Ro Khanna (CA) as the panelists.

Jimmy O’Donnell from our USW D.C. office joined a discussion on “Keeping Healthcare Workers and Patients Safe” with Director Cathy Drummond as one of the featured panelists. The afternoon was more workshops before we gathered as districts to review lobby day materials, scheduled appointments and address any last-minute questions.

We then marched to the U.S. Department of Labor for a rally to tell Congress to Reauthorize Trade Adjustment Assistance. This critical program has been stalled for two years while more than 100,000 workers have been displaced by unfair trade and need help now—including almost 1,000 in District 11.

Our topics this year for the meetings were: Fully Fund the NLRB, Reauthorize the TAA and Support the Nursing Home Safe Staffing Rule.

We also delivered information about the 301 trade case over shipbuilding and information about the situation at U.S. Steel with Nippon. We had many good meetings and really educated the representatives about our issues. Although some did not agree, we did our best with them.

I want to thank everyone who attended and all the staff who helped. We hope to see even more of you there in 2026!



# WOMEN of STEEL

We had an eventful end of 2023 and beginning of 2024. USW District 11 currently has four councils that are up and running.

We have had one-unit meeting for three of the councils so far this year.



In **Iowa**, sisters had a gathering for International Woman's Day. We learned from a guest speaker about how domestic violence impacts union members and how we can negotiate language to assist members that are in need.



The **Mokan Council**, hosted by USW Local 13, had the opportunity to discuss civil and human rights with staff representative Dave Rizzuto. Then, participants were able to tour Local 13-28 Lawn and Garden, LLC. This plant makes garden hoses, and all of us were able to learn of the process from start to finish.

The **WI'MN-KOTA Council**, hosted by USW Local 2660, had a large group of sisters who were educated by USW International Women of Steel Director Randie Pearson on "Raising the Bar" training. Our sisters learned the importance of addressing specific women's issues in the workplace because at times, they do differ.

Participants were able to tour the U.S. Steel Keewatin Taconite (KeeTac) plant where we were able to see the types of mining they do. KeeTac conducted a blast on site. This blast included 470 holes and measured a half-mile long.



## 2024 A. F. Kojetinsky Scholarships Awarded

The A. F. Kojetinsky Memorial Scholarship and the A. F. Kojetinsky Vocational (Career) Education Scholarships are awarded to District 11 members, the children of a member, or the legal ward of a member of any local that is affiliated and per capita paid up with the United Steelworkers District 11 Welfare & Education Fund. The Memorial Scholarship was developed to help students planning to pursue a four-year college degree and the Vocational (Career) Education Scholarship was developed for students who choose to pursue a career or technical training as opposed to a four-year college experience.

The scholarship is split into three regions that encompass all of the states within District 11. The Central Region includes Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming. The Northern Region covers the state of Minnesota. The Southern Region includes the states of Kansas and Missouri.

***The winners of the 2024 A. F. Kojetinsky Memorial \$5,200 Scholarship awarded to members of participating Welfare & Education local unions are:***

### **NORTHERN DISTRICT**

**MICHAEL DAVIS** graduated from Hastings High School in Hastings, Minnesota. He is planning to attend the University of Minnesota and will be majoring in Mathematics. His mother, Danielle Duke, is a member of USW Local 11-418 and is employed at 3M.

### **CENTRAL DISTRICT**

**ALYSSA BRANDT** graduated from Heartland Christian School in Council Bluffs, Iowa. She is planning to attend Wayne State College in Wayne, Nebraska double majoring in Computer Science and Computer Information Systems. Her father, John Brandt, is employed at LBT and is a member of USW Local 699.

### **SOUTHERN DISTRICT**

**KARLEY KOOB** graduated from Bishop Heelan in Sioux City, Iowa. She is planning to attend Creighton University and major in Nursing. She is the daughter of Jamie Koob who is employed at Magellan and a member of USW Local 348.

***The winners of the 2024 A. F. Kojetinsky Vocational \$2,600 Scholarship awarded to members of participating Welfare & Education local unions are:***

### **NORTHERN DISTRICT**

**ARIC EBNET** graduated from the East Range Academy of Technology and Science in Mt. Iron, MN. He is planning to attend the Eveleth Campus Welding Program of Minnesota North. His father, Tony Ebnet is employed at Cleveland Cliffs Minorca Mine and is a member of USW Local Union 6115.

### **CENTRAL DISTRICT**

**ERIC WRIGHT** graduated from Green River High School in Green River, Wyoming. He plans to enroll in the Welding Program at Labette Community College in Parsons, Kansas. His father, Eric R. Wright, is employed at Genesis Alkali and is a member of USW Local Union 13214.

### **CENTRAL DISTRICT**

**OLIVIA JACKSON** graduated from Oswego Junior Senior High School in Oswego, Kansas. She is planning to major in Elementary Education at Pittsburg State University. Her Father, Jason Jackson, is employed at Kansas Gas Service and a member of USW Local Union 13417.

***District 11 would like to congratulate all of the winners and wish them luck in the future!***



MICHAEL DAVIS



ALYSSA BRANDT



KARLEY KOOB



ARIC EBNET



ERIC WRIGHT



OLIVIA JACKSON

District 11  
**REPORTER**

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**USW DISTRICT 11**  
**Civil and Human Rights Training**

**The USW District 11 Civil and Human Rights Coordinator conducted a training in conjunction with the Women of Steel MOKAN meeting on March 22, 2024.**

The members learned about Title VII of Civil Rights Act of 1964. They also learned about various federal laws that protect us from discrimination in the workplace and how to set up Civil and Human Rights Committees in their locals.

About 25 members from Missouri and Kansas attended the meeting. We also had a training in Des Moines, Iowa on May 9, 2024, hosted by USW Local 310L. Another 20 members attended that training.

In addition to these events, USW District 11 conducts civil and human rights training for third-year students at the Jerry Johnson Summer Educational Institute at the Lodge of Four Seasons in Lake Ozark, Missouri, each June and at the Charlie Richardson Educational Institute held at Ruttger's Bay Lake Resort in Deerwood, Minnesota in September every year.

**Let's Hear from YOU!**

**USW@Work is published two times a year and we need the submissions for the Fall 2024 issue by September 12, 2024. Please submit them to [D11news@usw.org](mailto: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.**

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